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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1876.

LITERATURE

Yachting in the Arctic Seas; or, Notes of Five Voyages of Sport and Discovery in the Neighbourhood of Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya. By James Lamont. (Chatto & Windus.)

AFTER wading through numberless volumes of icy fiction, concocted narrative, and spurious biography of Arctic voyagers, it is pleasant to meet with a real and genuine volume; and if we take exception at starting to an opinion expressed by the author of 'Seasons with the Sea Horses,' it must not be considered that we have any intention of underrating his book. Mr. Lamont says:—

"I cannot admit the accuracy of an assertion often made, that no expedition can be conducted successfully to the Arctic regions save under naval discipline and control; for it happens to be a fact that the highest point north reached by any ship was that of the insignificant *Polaris*, with a crew of thirty-two persons, belonging to six nationalities, and commanded by a civilian. Dissension among the crew was not the bar to further progress north of the explorers of Smith Sound, of Scoresby in 1806, of the Swedish Expedition of 1872, or of Leigh Smith in 1873. In every case it was dense polar ice, or other physical conditions; whereas, on the other hand, naval discipline failed to enable the *Rosses*, *Parrys*, *McClures*, *Franklins*, and all the other able and energetic naval explorers in command of the numerous and well-formed Government expeditions from 1818 to 1860, to penetrate further."

Without pausing to inquire which of the naval commanders had for their object the attainment of a high northern latitude, we may point out that Mr. Lamont has misunderstood the assertion he combats although he might have added the name of *McClintock* to his list of successes, as in the *Fox* *McClintock* was not under naval discipline or control, although an officer in the Navy himself. What has been urged is that it would not do for an expedition, fitted out by Government, to proceed without being under naval discipline, and we quite agree with that opinion. It might also be inferred from Mr. Lamont's remarks that no such physical obstacles as stopped the civilian expeditions were encountered by the naval ones. But Mr. Lamont's best instance—the high latitude attained in the *Polaris*—is sufficient to illustrate the fallacy of his reasoning. To any thinking man, conversant with the circumstances of that voyage, the question may be submitted whether, if a *Ross*, *Parry*, *McClure*, or *Franklin*, having, under naval discipline and control, thirty-two hands such as those that have gone in our present Arctic Expedition, had been on board the *Polaris*, or such a vessel as would have been furnished by Government, at the spot where the *Polaris* turned back, when she had a dark water sky to the north-east, they would not have persevered. We believe they would, and, although it would be impossible to say what point they would have reached, it can be safely affirmed that it would have been much further north than where the *Polaris* turned back, and that the exigencies of naval discipline would have prevented what occurred to Mr. Lamont himself, viz., the shipment of the six *Tromsø* men, who proved to be "the hardest bar-

gains I was ever shipmate with, and I verily believe that six lazier, dirtier, sulkier, more mutinous and cowardly rascals never broke a biscuit." Mr. Lamont is evidently not friendly to Government expeditions, and he exhibits want of charity, to say the least of it, in his remarks on p. 91; yet he does not tell his readers who, in his opinion, should command our Government expeditions, or who would have made the discoveries that cover our Polar chart, had naval officers and men not done so, and whether he would think it the right thing for a Government to pay such a compliment to its Navy as to confer the command of expeditions on civilians!

To come to the main subject of this volume, it may be remarked that Mr. Lamont has done right in giving a rather detailed account of his little vessel, and her fittings for Arctic work; for every intending voyager naturally looks back to his predecessors' labours to guide him, and thus every such publication as this becomes a text-book to be referred to. Had a list of the stores and provisions been added which the author found most serviceable, there is no doubt it would have proved useful: the description of boats and gear for pursuing his quarry is quite perfect.

There are many passages suitable for extract, but a few brief quotations must suffice at present. Here is one of many walrus hunts:—

"The monster lay asleep with his broad back to us, and I am sure the heart of the boldest man in the boat beat quicker as, cautiously and gently paddling, we stole on him quickly from to leeward. I, with my rifle cocked and kneeling in the bow, and Helstad close to me, grasping his harpoon, waited breathlessly, as each moment lessened our distance from the walrus. All at once, and without any apparent reason—for I don't think he could either have seen, heard, or smelt us—the bull slowly raised his head from the ice, and made a deliberate search all round with eyes, ears, and nose. Certainly the last sniff was not satisfactory, for, although I don't think he saw us yet, he seemed to have a vague suspicion of danger in the air. Possibly this was the bull I missed yesterday, for he was just about the size, had similar tusks, and was found not very far from the same place. He would not lie down again, so we paddled on, and I determined to shoot him if I got a fair chance. When we were about twenty yards off he showed such a fine side-head shot that I fired, and, the shell crashing into his skull, he instantly fell over on his side, and lay kicking and groaning on the ice. 'Hurrah!' 'row, Iveck!' 'row!' 'row!' shouted everyone; and the three men pulled like mad to reach him, fearing he would tumble over into the water and sink. We reached him in the nick of time, for, just as Helstad drove his harpoon deep into his side, the bull rolled over into the deep water."

Here is a touching instance of the strong maternal affection exhibited by the walrus:—

"We had got fast to a cow-walrus, who was dragging the boat furiously amongst the icebergs, and I was going to shoot her through the head, that we might have time to follow the rest of the troop, but Christian called to me not to shoot, as she had a 'junger' with her. Although I did not understand his object, I reserved my fire, and, upon looking closely at the walrus when she came up to breathe, I then perceived that she held a very young calf under her right flipper, and I saw that he wanted to harpoon it; but, whenever he poised the weapon to throw, the old cow seemed to watch the direction of it, and interposed her own body, and she seemed to receive with pleasure several harpoons which were intended for the young one."

Walruses, like whales and seals, are yearly

getting more scarce. As they are hunted so they retreat to other and more quiet grounds, which are more difficult of access to their relentless pursuers, and probably the indiscriminate slaughter of the young with the old is another cause of diminished numbers. "In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries they were described as abundant about Bear Island, 'lying like hogges upon heaps,'" and Mr. Lamont adds,—

"The war of extermination which has been carried on for many years in Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya has driven all the Arctic Fauna from their old haunts, and, in seeking retreats more inaccessible to men, it is probable that they have in some degree to alter their habits. For example, up to twenty years ago it was customary for all walrus-hunters to entertain a reasonable hope that, by waiting till late in the season, all former ill-luck might be compensated in a few fortunate hours by killing some hundreds on shore; in fact, favourite haunts were well known to the fishers, and were visited successively before finally leaving the hunting grounds. Now, although the Arctic seas are explored by steamers and visited annually by as bold and enterprising hunters as formerly, such a windfall as a herd of walrus ashore is seldom heard of."

Mr. Lamont's sporting predilections made him a careful observer of the habits of the animals he pursued, and the following is an interesting addition to our knowledge of the wariness of the seal:—"I am perfectly sure the vibrations of a boat striking against the ice-edge are conveyed a distance of two or more miles. Directly the bows come in contact with the ice, every seal for miles raises his head and is on the alert."

It is impossible in this article to follow the author through his many excursions after the bear, seal, walrus, and reindeer, but he shows much tact in recounting his adventures, and they are so interspersed with anecdotes and information as to make them anything but wearisome. Dr. Carpenter will not agree with the author, who persists in conveying the Gulf Stream to Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya, nor will every one be convinced of the aptness of his similes; "about double the size of a dining-room" is as apposite a comparison to use in speaking of a piece of ice as the almost proverbial "about the size of a lump of chalk."

The work is illustrated by one of the most carefully drawn and useful maps of the Polar regions we have seen, and another, equally clear, of Mr. Lamont's own voyaging. The drawings are creditable to Mr. Livesay, the artist and editor. A tabulated chronicle of the voyages to Spitzbergen, Novaya Zemlya, and the Kara Sea is appended, and a copious index is furnished. The book, as a whole, is the most important addition made to our Arctic literature for a long time.

Historical Records of the First Regiment of Militia, or Third West York Light Infantry.

By Capt. J. A. Raikes. (Bentley & Son.)

CAPT. RAIKES has done well in publishing the records of his regiment, for, as he observes in the Preface, they have "a beneficial effect in maintaining that *esprit de corps* without which a regiment loses half its value." Incidentally, also, the author gives the history of the militia force generally—a branch of the land forces about which too little is known. The militia, it is notorious, is much more ancient than the standing army. Its

present constitution, however, only dates from the year 1756, when the ballot was first introduced. Previously, the holders of property of a certain value were required to furnish a foot or horse soldier according to the amount at which they were rated. In 1756, however, the *privilege* of national defence was extended to the lower classes. In 1759 the regiment whose title is at the head of this review was raised; and it is curious to note that the names of the sergeants, as well as those of the officers, were submitted for the approval of the Crown. Most of the sergeants appointed to the 3rd West York had belonged to the regular army; two, however, had served under the King of Prussia and in the "Yorkshire Blues." The latter was a corps of volunteers raised at York during the rebellion of 1745, and, during their embodiment, the officers demanded no pay. Capt. Raikes claims for this regiment the honour of being the parent of our present volunteers; but precedence must, we imagine, be yielded to the Honourable Artillery Company. Another curious fact with regard to the militia in the middle of the last century is that

"the rank of Brigadier-General was held by Militia officers in certain counties. By a warrant dated the 22nd of February, 1760, Henry Earl of Darlington was appointed Brigadier-General of our Militia forces for the county of Durham. Sir James Lowther was also made Brigadier-General of the Militia of Cumberland and Westmoreland; and the Earl of Shaftesbury, Brigadier-General of the Militia of Dorset."

The introduction of the ballot gave rise to some serious riots in Yorkshire, and was generally ill received by the lower orders. In 1763, the colonel of one of the county regiments stated in a pamphlet that nine out of ten men were substitutes, and were much preferred by the officers. He therefore advocated an increase of pay, in order to attract more recruits. In truth, if the change in the value of money be borne in mind, the militiaman did not receive a very high remuneration for his services, the pay of a private being only sixpence per day. A good deal is often said in praise of the militia as a reserve to the regular army, but that it cannot always be relied upon as such is shown by the fact that, in 1798, parties of the Royal Artillery and 31st Regiment were sent to recruit from the 3rd West York; "but although the bounty was seven guineas, and the men were only enlisted to serve in Europe during the war, and until six months after a general peace, they only appear, according to the pay-list, to have obtained twenty-four men."

The English army has ever been the victim of amateur tailors and coiffeurs, and the number of orders published about the dress of the 3rd West York at the end of the last and the beginning of the present century proves the constant attention paid by the commander-in-chief to the appearance of the men. In December, 1798, in the list of necessities published in regimental order, "four crimping-irons to each company" are mentioned. We presume that these articles were required for the hairdressing part of the science of war. In the following year, the general of the district issued an order about the curls of the men; and, a week later, the colonel of the 3rd West York observes, in regimental orders, that "the non-commissioned officers and men have of late worn too much powder

on their hair: they are again reminded that the hair should only appear grey, and that the comb should be drawn through the hair after it is powdered; there must be no powder on the face." Such care for the beauty of the British soldier is truly touching, and it is gratifying to know that a similar spirit even now animates the authorities. In the year 1800, a circular appeared directing that an allowance of 1d. per day should be given to each non-commissioned officer and private, in lieu of the small beer previously given. Some very interesting details of the precautions taken show in what a terrible state of alarm the country was from 1803 to 1805, owing to the threat of invasion by France. At Colchester, in the former year, an inlying piquet of two captains, five subalterns, and 300 rank and file turned out every night at sunset. In October of that year, the expectation of a landing was so great, that no officer was allowed to be absent from the camp for more than two hours at a time. In the following month there occurs in regimental orders the following passage:—"No officer or man on any account to leave the camp till further orders, but be ready to turn out at a moment's warning, though to go to bed as usual." In the same month, two companies of the regiment were ordered to be provided with rifles. In connexion with this subject, a fact may be mentioned which shows that our grandfathers were not quite so stupid and careless as people are apt to consider them. In 1812, it was announced in regimental orders, that the best shot of the year in each company would receive a prize of a shirt or a pair of shoes. In 1811 the 3rd West York had given 206 volunteers to the line. In 1812 there were eighty-nine volunteers, the men who were in the service on the 11th of April, 1811, receiving fourteen guineas for unlimited, and ten guineas for limited service: while those who had joined after that date obtained ten or six guineas respectively. In 1813 there was more volunteering, and the men electing for the Guards were obliged to be 5 ft. 7 in. in height, while for those who chose the Line 5 ft. 4 in. was deemed sufficient.

In 1833, William the Fourth, who was mad on the subject of etiquette and precedence, invited lords-lieutenant of counties and colonels of militia to a grand military banquet at St. James's Palace. After dinner, His Majesty made a speech, which it may be assumed was as silly as most of his utterances, and informed his guests that the object of the meeting was to settle permanently the order of precedence among militia regiments. Balloting-glasses were then produced, and the result of the drawing was that the 3rd West York became the 1st Regiment of militia. During the Crimean war and Indian mutiny the 3rd West York was embodied, and duly maintained its ancient reputation as a most respectable regiment of militia. Since then, nothing worthy of record has taken place which is not well known as a part of the story of Lord Cardwell's "homogeneous whole." In the Appendix, all particulars relating to statutes affecting the volunteering of men from the militia to the regular army are given, and these statutes are well worth studying at the present time. Indeed, the whole book is worth reading, for it has been most carefully compiled, and may, we believe, be looked upon as thoroughly accurate.

NEW FRENCH NOVELS.

La Tour de Percemont. Par George Sand. (Paris, Lévy.)

Jack. Par A. Daudet. 2 vols. (Paris, Dentu.)
Le Secret Terrible. Par A. Belot et J. Dautin. (Same publisher.)

Le Beau Solignac. Par Jules Claretie. (Same publisher.)

Hélène Brunet. Par Henri Morel. (Paris, Sartorius.)

L'Auberge du Monde. Par H. Malot. Part I. *Le Colonel Chamberlain.* Part II. *La Marquise de Lucillière.* Part III. *Ida et Carmélita.* Part IV. *Thérèse.* (Paris, Dentu.)

Léa. Par Alfred Assollant. (Same publisher.)
Madame Lebailly. Par "Fervacques." (Same publisher.)

Sacha. (Same author and publisher.)

Chaste et Infame. Par le Prince Lubomirski. (Same publisher.)

L'Arc-en-Ciel. Par "Quatrelles." (Paris, Hetzel.)

Un Mariage dans le Monde. Par Octave Feuillet. (Paris, Lévy.)

Les Amours de Cinq Minutes. Par A. Scholl. (Paris, Dentu.)

La Bête Noire. Par É. Cadol. (Paris, Lévy.)

GEORGE SAND'S two new stories in one volume—'La Tour de Percemont' and 'Marianne,'—will probably have been seen in *feuilleton* by many of our readers. 'La Tour de Percemont' is a very pretty story, as good, perhaps, as anything that George Sand ever wrote. 'Marianne,' too, is full of character, and it is only the greatest of writers who can develop character in stories not a hundred pages long.

M. Daudet's much-talked-of 'Jack' turns out to be a dull and coarse life of a bastard, crushed by his bastardy. The idea is old, and it is not given fresh interest by M. Daudet's treatment.

The authors of 'Le Parricide' present us with another of their sensation-dramas in the form of a "novel." This time it is the autobiography of a cashier,—fraudulent, of course. The book is inferior to those of M. Gaboriau, though written in his style, and will not see its fiftieth edition, like M. Belot's equally worthless but more immortal 'Femme de Feu.'

The cleverer, but far less popular, author of the excellent 'Les Muscadins,' M. Claretie, has, in 'Le Beau Solignac,' written a work dealing with almost the same period and in the same style, and presenting a picture of Paris in the first years of Napoleon the First, instead of under the Directory. M. Henri Morel's 'Hélène Brunet' belongs to a class of French novels with which we deal only when they present some features sufficiently striking to force them into notice. It is stupid as well as indecent, but the suspension of its publication as a *feuilleton* in the *Figaro* caused such a stir in Paris that we cannot place a list of new French novels before our readers without including its title. 'Hélène Brunet' is a work of no merit of any kind, and the attempt to push it, by the same means, into a notoriety such as that of 'Madame Bovary' must fail.

The French novels of the present publishing season are decidedly inferior to those reviewed by us last year. M. Zola has not published anything since his 'Faute de l'Abbé Mouret,' which we reviewed in the spring; M. Octave

Feuillet's 'Un Mariage dans le Monde,' though readable, is not worthy of its writer; M. Hector Malot has fallen off, and only George Sand remains at her usual level. M. Malot does not this time offend so absolutely against our rule as to the titles of second and later volumes of novels as he did in his last two works. A general first title (though in very small type) does appear on each of the four volumes now before us. The "Auberge du Monde" of course is Paris, and the book relates the adventures of an American in that city. It is M. Malot's worst book: is wretchedly thin, and is "padded" with rat-fights and horse-races; but the aim of M. Malot seems now to be, not fame, but money, and money he must be making fast. As we were among the first to prophesy fame for him, we have special cause for sorrow.

'Léa' is a fairly good novel. "Fervacques," the active sub-editor of the *Gaulois*, has published two books at about the same time, of which 'Madame Lebaillly' is a clever novel of provincial life. 'Sacha,' bad, absurd even, as a whole, contains scenes of Petersburg fashionable existence which are admirably drawn. Prince Lubomirski's novel also deals with Russia. It appeared, like one at least of his earlier books, as a *feuilleton* in the *Paris Journal*. It is one of the most horrible books that was ever penned, and, while written without any regard to reality, is also wholly wanting in interest. 'L'Arc-en-Ciel,' so-called because it contains stories "de toutes les couleurs," is neither better nor worse than the author's 'Sans Queue ni Tête' of last year. 'Les Amours de Cinq Minutes' is a reprint of little sketches, of which one, about the shams of modern cookery, is excellent,—while 'La Bête Noire' is also a collection of stories, and also fairly good.

None of the books we have reviewed is irreproachable from the moral point of view, and we note a great increase in the number of the French translations of healthier English novels now being sold in France.

Emperor and Galilean: a Drama, in Two Parts. By Henrik Ibsen. Translated from the Norwegian by Catherine Ray. (Samuel Tinsley.)

It is but a few years since the name of Henrik Ibsen was first presented before the English public, and although, in reviews and magazine articles, not a little attention has of late been drawn to his genius by students of Norwegian, this is the first time that any complete work of his has been published in an English form. Miss Ray has done her work conscientiously and accurately. It is not easy to transfer to another language, without loss, such rapid and incisive dialogue as gives substance to 'Emperor and Galilean,' but she has striven bravely with the difficulties of her task, and in great measure overcome them. After comparing several passages of her translation, word for word with the original, we can testify to her accuracy in all but a few minute details.

Ibsen's poetry is the culminating effort of a national Norwegian literature, the origin of which is co-eval with the declaration of national independence in 1814. Until then, Norway had been, to all intents and purposes, a province of Denmark, and what literary

talent she had produced had either withered for want of local nourishment, or had been translated early to Copenhagen, where it had lost its peculiar character. From 1814, however, a national Norse literature began. Mouthy and chaotic at first, consisting mainly of rhetorical pamphlets and still more rhetorical odes and songs, it gradually took a more articulate form, under the auspices of two men of undoubted genius and diametrically opposed characteristics. Wergeland, a poet whose fluent energy and fiery force would have won him a foremost place in any generation of any modern nation, was in reality the final artistic development of the *Sturm- und Drang-Periode* that had preceded him. He gave to the language a flexibility and a force it had never before possessed, but he was so utterly wanting in self-restraint and maturity of judgment, that his influence, alone, would have been more ruinous than beneficial. Happily his ardour was balanced by the severe taste and good sense of his rival, Welhaven, who gathered about him a cluster of young men of talent, and headed a reaction against the grandiose poetry of Wergeland. The controversy forms one of the most amusing chapters in the history of modern literature. In the streets, in the theatres, even in the law-courts, the rage of the factions ran so high that at one time the most interesting questions of the day were those that related to the construction of a tragedy or the turning of a sonnet. The result of all this unusual poetical excitement has been that while Norway is still without a truly important school in any of the plastic arts, still behind the rest of Scandinavia in historical and scientific literature, in the one matter of poetry she is far ahead of them, and possesses a group of living dramatic poets second to none in Europe. The first of these to win a name outside his own country was Björnson, whose peculiarly fascinating manner, rather than any depth or richness of matter, has made him one of the most popular authors of the day. Rising by a single leap into fame, at an age when most youths of genius are barely known to a circle of expectant friends, Björnson found himself a celebrity not in his own country only, but almost simultaneously in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, England, and Italy. Ibsen, though an older man, has experienced no such violent good fortune as this. A deeper, finer poet, he has nevertheless had the disadvantage of a slow and retarded development. It was not till he was thirty years of age, and more, that the satiric drama, in which lies his true strength, seems to have attracted him at all. Like Thackeray, with whom he has much in common, Ibsen, in obscurity and depression, tried one form of production after another before he attained a sudden success that startled his best friends hardly less than it surprised the public. In 1862 it was that he brought out 'Love's Comedy,' the first drama of a satiric trilogy that still remains the crown of his poetic fame. The scene of this poem, for it is not adapted to stage requirements, and can never well be acted, was laid in a country town in Norway, and the whole aim of the piece was to ridicule the follies and make hateful the petty vices of a society which was still, at its best, provincial. The hero, Falk, a sort of Pendennis, is hardly a more satisfactory character than the rest, though undoubtedly

more interesting. The second of these satiric dramas, 'Brand,' appeared 1866, and dealt with the burning questions of the hour with regard to the condition of the Church and the clergy. Ibsen had given no promise of the extraordinary faculty of sustained and intricate verse-writing which he displayed in 'Brand,' a long and many-sided drama, written from beginning to end in rhymed octosyllabic verse of the most breathless rapidity and vigour, never failing nor sinking. The third section of his trilogy was 'Peer Gynt,' published in 1868, a more brilliant and more fantastic *tour de force* than either of the others, but less rounded and less intelligible. Certain passages of this poem, exquisite landscapes full of the clear light and dewy freshness of the forest and the mountain lake, humorous scenes of devilry and mirth among peasants, wild and almost Aristophanic bursts of rhythmic satire, rank as high as anything that Ibsen has produced; but the effect of the whole is broken and vague.

After a long silence, broken only by the production of a prose comedy and a volume of songs, Ibsen published, in 1873, the double drama, or chronicle-play in ten acts, which Miss Ray has translated for the benefit of English readers. He called it 'Emperor and Galilean: a Drama from the World's History,' hinting in this title that beneath the archaeological, personal, and historical importance of the piece, there would be found a lesson for the students of the psychological development of religion and society. 'Emperor and Galilean' deals with the story of Julian the Apostate. When the curtain rises, we find him the friendless nephew of Constantius the Second. Embittered from childhood against the Christian religion, disgusted with the intrigues and the superstition of the Court, he looks to philosophy as to a dangerous but fascinating force with which he dare not contend, lest its arguments prove too strong for his wavering faith. In such a mood, it is needless to say, he offers combat, and is worsted. He goes off to Athens to mingle with the new philosophers and be at rest. In vain! They are sensual, greedy, and ambitious, and among them, also, he finds no peace. He is driven from philosophy to the rites of the wizards, and it is at the moment when he is dazed and overwhelmed with the mysterious apparitions of the magicians, that a messenger announces that he has been appointed Cæsar, and the heir-apparent to the throne of the world. Proceeding into Gaul, he is so successful against the Barbarians that Constantius fears his growing power; an attack of the Emperor on his life, and the discovery that a priest of the Christian Church has misused his confidence to win the affection of his wife, finally determine Julian, and seeing in Christianity nothing but a rotten system of treachery and bigotry, he has himself proclaimed Emperor, not from personal ambition at all, but in the hope that, when seated on the throne, he may have power enough to crush the hated Galilean, and bring back the pure and genial worship of "the gods of earth and air." At the close of the first part he has finally and irretrievably broken with the new creed by offering public sacrifice to Helios in a Christian temple.

In the second of these dramas, Julian appears crowned at Constantinople, but from

the moment that his reign begins it seems as though all power had left him. Those who he expected would leap with joy out of their Christian fetters are strangely cold. In the Pagans he finds indifference or languid acquiescence; in the Christians, stubborn and arrogant resistance, for which he was totally unprepared. He discovers that he has not to deal with self-seeking sectarians, mouthy wranglers over the arid dogmas of Donatist and Manichee, but with those quiet servants and lovers of Jesus whose existence he had not suspected, but who have been living and working underneath the frothy surface, and who are as easy to subdue or bind, for all their modesty and weakness, as waves or flames might be. He is baffled at Antioch, foiled at Jerusalem, made ridiculous at Alexandria, and wakes slowly up to the truth that he is himself a failure and an anachronism, and that the world is only waiting till he dies to swing gently back into the course out of which he has momentarily forced it. Yet is his will unbroken, his conscience unsoftened, his intelligence unconvinced, and he fights on to the tragical end in Parthia, where, to his maddened and frantic imagination, it seems as though the Galilean himself fought against him in cloudy sunset and flaming sunrise. He falls, with the cry upon his lips, "Thou hast conquered, Galilean!"

Such is a brief and thin summary of a tragic poem, in which one of the most keenly analytic geniuses of our age has attempted to search out the causes of the failure of Julian and the mental and spiritual features of the age in which he lived. The language in which he has done so is strictly, almost violently, realistic: indeed realism is carried to a length which some will consider extreme. None will deny, however, that the work is one of the most remarkable in the literature of the day.

Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry the Eighth, preserved in the Public Record Office, the British Museum, and elsewhere in England. Arranged and catalogued by J. S. Brewer, M.A., under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, and with the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State. Vol. IV. Introduction and Appendix. (Longmans & Co.)

MR. BREWER has now carried his important labours on the State Papers of Henry the Eighth down to the close of Wolsey's administration. The work has grown upon his hands, and each successive volume has furnished such an increased amount of new materials for history that it has been found impossible to confine the introductions within ordinary limits; consequently, the Introduction to Vol. IV., published separately, is in itself a volume of 672 pages. Nor do we think it can be reasonably said, considering the peculiar character of Mr. Brewer's labours, that even so lengthy a commentary is open to serious objection. No one, assuredly, will find it either dull or uninteresting. It has been complained of on other grounds, concerning which we shall have something to say before concluding; but if it be granted that such an introduction is desirable at all, the length to which this one has run appears to be justified by the extraordinary abundance,

variety, and importance of the matters contained in the Calendar itself to which it is intended as a guide. Mr. Brewer's introductions, in fact, amount to a new history of Henry the Eighth, drawn from materials hitherto unknown, or unusable from never having been before brought together; and certainly no one was better qualified to interpret the significance of those materials than the gentleman by whom they had been so laboriously collected and arranged in true order of chronology.

The portion of his reign to which the present volume refers may be regarded as the turning point in Henry the Eighth's career. It is within this period that he falls in love with Anne Boleyn, and discovers scruples about his marriage with Catherine. His old sagacious and trusty adviser Wolsey gradually loses his influence, and is at length discarded. A watchful care of public business gives way to the pursuit of pleasure. A legate is sent from Rome to try, along with Wolsey, the case for a divorce; and because there seems little prospect of the King's wishes being acceded to, we hear the first mutterings of the threatened separation from the See of Rome that was soon after an accomplished fact.

The view taken by Mr. Brewer, after a careful examination of all known sources of information by which to form a judgment on many of these subjects, is not such an indiscriminating verdict upon men and things as we too often meet with, even in the works of men of learning and ability, who cannot wean themselves from popular or party prejudices, notwithstanding that they have the facts before them. For instance, as regards the character of the King himself, and of the special period under consideration, nothing could be more clear and intelligible, or apparently impartial, than the summary which he has given us in the following extract:—

"Henry the Eighth was not the 'angel of purity' it has now become a fashion with some to represent him; nor was he the monster of lust and cruelty described by others, at all events in his earlier years, and under Wolsey's administration. He had been carefully, and even strictly, educated by his father, Henry the Seventh, whose stern and sombre court formed a striking contrast to the splendour and magnificence in which his son and successor delighted. The horrors of a civil war, of a disputed succession, of a successful rebellion under some powerful noble, had passed away. The old and staid councillors of his father had died; and, with the exception of Wolsey, their places had been mainly filled by younger men of a very different stamp; by laymen, not by ecclesiastics; by those who could enter into the young King's pursuits and amusements,—were more fitted for the tilt-yard than the council table,—loved the tumult, gallantry, pomp, and splendour of the rising generation and the new reign, and served rather to spur than to restrain the inclinations of the new monarch. Until the close of the year 1524, the superabundant activity of the King himself and his young courtiers, wasting itself mainly in muscular amusements, or exchanging them for the less justifiable excitement of dice and card-playing, found more wholesome occupation in the war with France, or the expectation of war. But the defeat of Francis at the battle of Pavia left them in utter idleness, without the hope of employment. Men of education, sagacity, and experience, generally ecclesiastics, were, at that time, engaged in all diplomatic posts, requiring more than usual tact and ability. For such employments the nobility and gentry who frequented the new court were disqualified by

ignorance of their own, and, still more, of the Latin, tongue—the common vehicle of communication—or declined to qualify themselves by the necessary sacrifices of their time and amusements. In 1525, the King, then thirty-six years old, was beginning to pay less attention to business. He hated the drudgery of looking over files of dispatches, from which the most exciting topic was absent; withdrew himself more and more from the metropolis, and spent his days in hunting. At that time he was in the very vigour of his manhood; then, and for some time after, the admiration of all who beheld him; conspicuous for his clear, ruddy complexion, his strength and agility; towering in stature above all those by whom he was surrounded."

Among the men who now became his chief companions, the most notable were all connected with Anne Boleyn, either by blood or otherwise. There was her brother, George Boleyn; her father, Sir Thomas; her uncle, the Duke of Norfolk; her cousin, Sir Francis Bryan; her near relative and admirer, Sir Henry Norris; and her intimate friend, Sir William Compton. Besides these, there was the King's old favourite, the Duke of Suffolk. A lively but dissolute society. Not one of them showed any high regard for marriage vows, or treated their infringement as anything but a jest.

"Suffolk," says Mr. Brewer, "had been betrothed to one lady; then married another; then abandoned her, on the plea of his previous contract, for the lady whom he had in the first instance rejected. Norfolk lived with his duchess on the most scandalous terms. Sir William Compton had been cited in the ecclesiastical court, for living in open adultery with a married woman. The fate of Norris and George Boleyn is too well known to require comment. Sir Francis Bryan, the chief companion in the King's amusements, and the minister of his pleasures, was pointed out by common fame as more dissolute than all the rest."

A more worthy favourite the King might have had in Sir Thomas More, whom at this time he endeavoured to win to his service, and made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. It is creditable to Henry the Eighth that he appreciated the high qualities of such a man, and desired, at least, to be befriended by learning, wit, and virtue. Roper's account of the delight Henry took in his company is well known; and how the King would come uninvited to his house at Chelsea, and walk arm-in-arm with him in his garden. Nor will it be forgotten how exactly More himself appreciated this honour at its true value and no more. "I thank our Lord, sir," he replied to Roper's congratulations, "I find his Grace my very good lord indeed, and I believe he doth as singularly favour me as any subject within this realm. Howbeit, Mr. Roper, I may tell thee I have no cause to be proud thereof; for if my head would win him a castle in France (for then there was war between us), it should not fail to go." More, in fact, as Mr. Brewer believes, saw clearly enough that it was the King's intention at this time to seek a divorce from his Queen, and that if drawn into the King's service he would be expected to defend a cause which the purity of his own domestic life shows that he could not possibly have approved of. So he avoided the snare.

But what was the true nature of that influence which, among companions such as we have seen, prompted in Henry's mind those scruples as to his marriage, and that longing to be possessed of Anne Boleyn's person? Or what is it reasonable to think, with such surroundings, was the

character of Anne Boleyn herself? She was young and fascinating, and at a court where fantastic gallantries prevailed, it was no wonder that she produced a sensation after her return from France in 1522. It appears that she endured complacently the admiration of Sir Thomas Wyatt, who, though a married man, wore her miniature about his neck, and sang of his love called Anna, a name "that changeth not, though it be turned and made in twain." Another of her admirers, and a more legitimate one, was undoubtedly Lord Henry Percy, though Cavendish was circumstantially wrong in the story of his pre-contract with her. Of her personal appearance Mr. Brewer tells us:—

"The blood of the Ormonds ran in her veins. From her Irish descent she inherited—

The black-blue Irish hair and Irish eyes.

And like the Irish Isolt of the great poet, Anne Boleyn was remarkable for the exquisite turn of her neck and her glossy throat. She was a little, lively, sparkling brunette, with fascinating eyes and long black hair, which, contrary to the sombre fashion of those days, she wore coquettishly floating loosely down her back, interlaced with jewels. The beauty of her eyes and hair struck all beholders alike—grave ecclesiastics and spruce young sprigs of nobility. 'Sitting in her hair on a litter' is the feature at her coronation, which seems to have made the deepest impression upon Archbishop Cranmer. 'On Sunday morning (1st September, 1532), solemnly and in public, Madame Anne being then at Windsor, *con li capelli sparsi*, completely covered with the most costly jewels, was created by the King Countess of Pembroke.' George Wyatt, grandson of Sir Thomas Wyatt, the poet, one of her admirers, describes her, in the fantastic language of the sixteenth century, as having 'a beauty not so whitely as clear and fresh above all that we may esteem, which appeared much more excellent by her favor passing sweet and cheerful. There was found, indeed, upon the side of her nail upon one of her fingers some little show of a nail, which yet was so small, by the report of some that have seen her, as the work-master seemed to leave it an occasion of greater grace to her hand, which, with the tip of one of her fingers, might be and was usually by her hidden, without any least blemish to it.'

It is solely to the fascination of this lively coquette, not at all to doubts insinuated into his mind by others, certainly not to any anxiety about the succession to his throne, that Mr. Brewer attributes the King's scruples as to the validity of his marriage with Catherine. The story of an objection raised by the Bishop of Tarbes to the Princess Mary's legitimacy was a diplomatic fiction, invented to excuse the King's proceedings. Not a trace of such an objection appears in the negotiations, of which we have a pretty full account in the body of Mr. Brewer's Calendar. Still more absurd is the idea that the scruple was originally put into the King's head by his confessor Longland, at the instigation of Cardinal Wolsey—a rumour propagated by Wolsey's enemies, and implying inconceivable audacity both in Longland and the Cardinal; but which was expressly denied by the former and by the King himself.

So little, in fact, did Wolsey merit the accusation made against him by Catherine in the play, of having "blown this coal between her lord and her," that it appears the King was never satisfied that he was in earnest in promoting his wishes. He had even incurred suspicion at the beginning of the business by advising Henry to treat her gently, and not

attempt to cast her off on his own responsibility as never having been lawfully his wife; and we have a letter from him to the King endeavouring to satisfy the royal mind that this advice was given purely as a matter of policy in the interests of the King himself. And though there is no doubt the advice was really prudent, even in a worldly point of view, and Henry could not but feel that it was so, this seems to have been the one question on which he did not frankly communicate his whole mind to the Cardinal, but employed other agents to carry out his designs. Wolsey's aid, however, was indispensable, as the King found to his cost that the best diplomatists he could employ were bunglers, and that if he could not effect his object through Wolsey, it could only be done by that absolute breach with Rome on which the Defender of the Faith had not yet determined.

Wolsey, however, it must be owned, was subservient enough. In May, 1527, some secret proceedings of an extraordinary character were instituted before him as Legate. It was his duty, in this capacity, to take cognizance of matters touching the public morality, and so, with the King's leave, he summoned the King himself to make answer to the charge of having cohabited for eighteen years with his brother Arthur's wife, to whom he could not have been lawfully married. The King, thus called upon to defend his own marriage, put in a proctor, who, of course, pleaded the dispensation, but admitted the previous impediment. The case was declared to be very difficult, and Wolsey adjourned it to take the opinions of the most learned divines before pronouncing his decision. These proceedings were never resumed. They were kept in such profound secrecy, that historians have been in total ignorance of them till now; and had they been known at the time, as Mr. Brewer remarks, they would have effectually excluded Wolsey from sitting as Campeggio's successor when the cause was afterwards tried under a Papal commission.

But we must leave our readers to ascertain for themselves the true story of Henry the Eighth's divorce, and a multitude of other things hitherto imperfectly known, or unknown altogether, which Mr. Brewer's interesting Introduction brings into the fullest daylight. After the extracts we have quoted and the subjects we have already touched upon, it would be needless to comment on anything of inferior interest, though there is abundance of matter apart from these which would have been sufficient in itself to give this volume peculiar value. For instance, all that is said about Wolsey, his colleges, and his wonderful diplomacy, gives us quite a new idea of the great Cardinal's genius. His diplomacy, perhaps, shows us the least worthy side of his character, as his magnificent educational schemes show us the noblest; but even his diplomacy was inspired by a loftiness of view and a general integrity of purpose that commands our admiration. He was unfortunate only in having to serve a master at once the most intelligent and the most despotic that ever wore the English crown; but having regard to the constraint under which he was placed, and the dangers by which he was beset, there was nothing in his policy mean, abject, or dishonest. His statesmanship raised England

from being a second-rate power to the first rank among the nations of Europe.

That a volume of such importance to historical literature as the present should be received with anything but a hearty welcome, will be a subject of regret to all who know its value. Yet objections have been raised to Mr. Brewer being allowed to print, at the public expense, his own view of the origin of the Reformation; and this objection, urged in private on the Master of the Rolls, has led to an order being issued to all editors of Calendars not to allow their Introductions in future to exceed the limit of fifty pages without Sir George Jessel's express permission in writing. We should never have supposed it possible that Sir George would be guilty of anything so like delivering judgment on an *ex parte* statement. The case cannot have been formally laid before him for his decision; Mr. Brewer cannot have been heard in his own defence; and certainly the literary world, which is far more interested in the result than Mr. Brewer himself, has not yet pronounced its verdict. The rule, moreover, involves this absurdity, that it is absolutely no check at all upon the abuse against which it is supposed to be directed. If it is an offence for an editor to put forth his private opinion on historical subjects in a volume of 600 pages, how should it be less objectionable to do so in a Preface of fifty pages? In the latter case it runs even greater risk of being a mere statement of opinion, without reference to facts or documents. In the former, it is only the inevitable concomitant of any attempt whatever to point out the historical significance of the documents in the Calendar.

That certain of the Prefaces to the earlier volumes of this Series were not by any means judiciously executed is acknowledged on all hands, and we ourselves expressed our approval when Lord Romilly issued, in 1867, his request to the editors of the Calendars to confine their remarks "to an explanation of the papers therein contained." But in the case of the Calendar of Henry the Eighth's reign, which is formed on a more comprehensive plan, Lord Romilly acceded to Mr. Brewer a larger liberty, because without it he could not have explained the chronology of the documents in his Calendar, which it had cost him so much labour to arrange. The other editors have only dealt with separate series of documents, for the most part arranged to their hands; but Mr. Brewer has had to collect papers from various repositories, and discover their dates for himself from internal evidence. An historical Introduction to such a work was requisite, in order to show the justification of the editor's arrangement of his own documents, and it was felt desirable that in doing so he should be left as unrestricted as possible. Therefore, the injunction which is prefixed to all the other volumes has never appeared on Mr. Brewer's Introductions. No one has objected to the Introductions to Mr. Brewer's previous volumes; on the contrary, they have been well received by reviewers, and their utility has been further shown by the frequent references which have already been made to them in works of history. And it is hard to see on what grounds Mr. Brewer is now attacked for availing himself of the permission accorded to him by the late Master of the Rolls. If anybody is to be

blamed in the matter, it is Lord Romilly. Mr. Brewer, if a few sentences on the normal state of the Church of England be excepted, which are not of importance, and which might have been omitted, has confined himself strictly to the great movements and historical events on which his documents shed light.

But if, because Mr. Brewer has availed himself of a privilege expressly conceded to him, future editors are to be confined to fifty pages apiece, the action of Sir George Jessel may go far to destroy the usefulness of the valuable series of *Calendars* instituted by the late Master of the Rolls. Until the Public Records came into Lord Romilly's custody, the nation, it may be said, knew nothing whatever of their contents. Record Commissions, one after another, had done little to remedy the evil. They had printed bulky folios, which nobody could read—not even men like Hallam, engaged in historical research. It was found that the Public Records required special study to understand them, special men to calendar them, and special words of introduction to these *Calendars* to show their value; and it is only when all this has been done that the public can possibly know the value of their own records. How important even these Introductions are to the public appreciation of the *Calendars* may be seen in the case of the very work before us. The first and second parts of Mr. Brewer's fourth volume have been before the public for two or three years past, without any Introduction at all, the editor having reserved this till the completion of Part III., which ends the volume; but neither of these two parts, important as their contents now appear to be, has received almost any notice at all at the hands of reviewers, the labour of investigating the historical interest of the documents being altogether too great for the ordinary man of letters who has not made them his special study. We, therefore, as reviewers, owe a special tribute of thanks to the writers of lucid Introductions, like that of Mr. Brewer; and we cannot but feel that any attempt to suppress these Introductions is a retrograde movement. If persisted in, it will impair the value and usefulness of the *Calendars* themselves, which, without them, may become, like the publications of the Record Commission, so unintelligible and unpopular as to be at length put a stop to, as a waste of public money.

The Archaeology of Rome: a Supplement to the First Three Parts of the First Volume.
By J. H. Parker, C.B. (Murray & Co.)

MR. PARKER has comprised in this single volume a valuable and complete account of all that is known of the Egyptian obelisks now preserved at Rome, together with a mass of interesting matter on different branches of Roman antiquarian research, intended, as he modestly terms it, as a supplement to his first volume on the *Archæology of Rome*.

The fact is, so much has been discovered during the last few years, and is being discovered still, that tends to give an entirely new explanation to many parts of the ancient city, of which we have hitherto had only the faint glimpses preserved in the remains of classical literature, that even a new work on this subject becomes obsolete in a short period of time. So has it fared with Mr. Parker's

volume, published scarcely three years since: even now, a supplement is needed to carry on the information he was then able to impart to the public. His main object in this, therefore, is to explain more fully and clearly some points which had previously been necessarily left undecided, and especially by the means of plans and diagrams; for these are new to many people, even to those who have busied themselves with such inquiries, in that they are the results obtained by the great explorations so fully carried out recently by the municipality of Rome. Thus, the excavations made for the drains of the "new" city (for, practically, Rome is being rebuilt) have brought many things to light previously quite unknown; as, for instance, the house of the *Lamie*, near to that of *Mæcenas*, the latter of which is on the southern horn-work of the great *agger* called that of *Servius Tullius*, as that of *Sallust* is on the northern horn-work. It is now clear that this great bank was covered with houses as early as the first century A.D., and that a street was made in the inner fosse, the pavement that lined it having been found at the depth of about twenty feet. These houses rested against the sloping bank, and had no back windows.

Again, much that is quite new has been learned by these researches, especially in the case of the walls and gates of imperial Rome, which were built on the old earth-works of the outer *mænia*: for these we have hitherto rested on Dr. Dyer's statements in Dr. Smith's 'Dictionary of Antiquities,' an admirable summary of all the then accessible evidence, when it was written, about twenty years ago. The excavations, however, of the last ten years have rendered no small portion of this account practically useless. In order, therefore, to bring down the actual state of our knowledge of ancient Rome to the middle of the last year, Mr. Parker has comprised in this volume a valuable series of chronological tables, from A.D. 340 to about 200 years ago, this being a supplement to the list in his former volume, which extended back to the presumed period of the foundation of Rome. He has marked, in this as in his previous lists, all the buildings still in existence, and which can be identified on reasonable evidence. He has also added a useful notice of the leading contemporary events.

Mr. Parker then gives ample details of the most ancient fosse of "Roma Quadrata," the exact date of which cannot be now determined; and of the second wall, which, unquestionably, is as old as the Kings, and still exhibits what may be called gigantic remains. Thus, in one place, a large round tower yet stands, fifty feet high and twelve feet thick, constructed of tufa blocks, each nearly, if not quite, a ton in weight. Mr. Parker then points out that the so-called "Seven hills of Rome" can now be shown to have been so many separate hill-fortresses—so many distinct villages, in fact, till they were, at a somewhat later period, joined together by a series of mounds. The slopes round the hedges of the summit-platform, when not, as often, natural cliffs, were carefully cut away; the valley between them being, for the most part, a swamp or covered with timber, much resembling the peat-bogs of which we have so many examples in Ireland. It is curious, that, so recently as 1870, there was still, within the walls of the

ancient town of *Gabii*, a village called *Cætiglione*, consisting of huts of the most primitive kind: such a village, probably, represents with much accuracy what were the villages on the old hills of Rome at the period popularly attributed to *Romulus*.

Mr. Parker next gives a fuller account of an important discovery made by him about seven years ago—that of the true site of the *Porta Capena*, on the Appian Way to the south, which had been wrongly placed by all previous authorities, as they had not had the advantage of actual excavations. By the excavations he then made, it was clearly shown that *Servius Tullius* (or whoever may have been the real builder of the second wall) did not build one continuous wall seven miles in extent, as is shown on most of the German and English maps of even recent days, but that he simply connected together the several fortified hills or camps, previously noticed, by a series of short *aggeres* across the valleys.

"To demonstrate this plain fact," says Mr. Parker, "seven pits were dug in a line across the valley, from the foot of the *Colian* on the east to that of the *Aventine* on the west. In each of these pits the *agger* was found, with the aqueducts carried upon it, and with a wall on the outer side of the *agger*, or great bank of earth. In the first pit, close under the *Colian*, remains of the *Porta Capena* and of the *Via Appia* were found; the exact site of this is marked by a mediæval tower at the east end of the gardener's house, in the garden of the monks of *St. Gregory*."

We may add that the plate Mr. Parker gives in this volume shows, from a photograph, the exact position of the remains he speaks of, and proves that there can be no doubt of the accuracy of his statement.

Mr. Parker then adds some interesting notes on the fourth wall of Rome—that of *Aurelian*, with some short but valuable memoirs on matters of detail which it was not possible for him to comprehend in his previous volume. One of the most curious of these is on what has been called the "*Cippus of the Pomærium*"—a square stone with an inscription to mark the extent to which the *pomærium* of the city was extended by the Emperor *Trajan*. This remarkable monument is still standing *in situ*, in a cellar of a house in the *Piazza Sforza Cesarini*. It should be added that Mr. Parker's work is illustrated by four plates of obelisks, excellently reduced from photographs, and by twenty-three others of equal merit, in illustration of his separate essays.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

Squire Harrington's Secret. By G. W. Garrett. 2 vols. (Samuel Tinsley.)

Miss Molly. By B. M. Butt. (Blackwood & Sons.)

In Spite of Fortune. By Maurice Gay. 3 vols. (Samuel Tinsley.)

The Silver Flaggon. By B. L. Farjeon. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

Cinderella. (Samuel Tinsley.)

THE author of the '*Belle of Belgravia*' is not intentionally comic, but we have enjoyed not a few smiles in reading his volumes of romance. The printer is in league with him for our amusement. The comparison of an old woman's hair to a horse's "tale," may be intended to remind us of the story which that animal could reveal of many a luxuriant *chevelure*. But the bold indifference to grammar

displayed by the wicked squire and his deserted child is probably our author's own invention. We will not cite instances; they may be better imagined than described, like the sentiments of the autobiographer as he contemplated the portrait of Mr. Arthur Harrington, "whom I was now persuaded was my long-sought-for father." The author's tale is neither short nor long (a bang-tail it is called in horses), and, but for its long words and bad grammar, hangs together not ungracefully. The secret remains a secret longer than is sometimes the case. The Squire is endowed with all the horrid attributes of his order. The subordinate characters are mostly jocular and farcical. Aunt Rachael, the lady who is compared to a horse, resembles a different animal in her habits of contradiction and other sterling qualities. There is a comic doctor, the *Æsculapæus* (*sic*) of the village, who gets divertingly drunk; a benevolent detective, who of course gets hold of the wrong end of the clue he is engaged upon; a murderer, named Biffles, and others. The heroine, on the other hand, is a lay figure; and though the hero tells his own story, we do not discover what manner of man he is.

'Miss Molly' is sprightly and pleasant, as befits her name. She is a trifle slangy in speech, perhaps, but not unnatural. The only thing extraordinary about her is her voice, which we are assured "was equal, if not superior to, many public singers!" No wonder, perhaps, that her parents felt an unwonted quiet in the house during the absence of their younger daughter. She becomes quiet enough, poor thing! when the hero of her affections, muscular beyond even the wonted strength of such creatures of the feminine imagination, slays a brother officer with one blow of a fist which must have been almost as powerful as the voice of his beloved. Five years' penal servitude is a terrible ordeal for constancy, but Miss Molly is very good and true throughout Reginald's incarceration, and with chastened spirits, but renewed affection, this vigorous young couple at length earn the reward of their endurance.

It cannot but have struck many that of late there has been a tendency to bridge over the gulf between Bohemia and society. Society has become more catholic, more appreciative, perhaps more tired of its own natural members; while in the ranks of Bohemia, are many who have cast off much of the garb and manners, if not of the feelings, which used to distinguish them. An author, an artist, a musician, an actor, no longer deems it indispensable that in his appearance and behaviour he should differ from every one else. A man of true genius does not now deliberately outrage conventionalities, but is content to look, and conduct himself, like an ordinary gentleman. 'In Spite of Fortune' illustrates this change in the relations between the worlds of mind and fashion. There is not much originality in the plot, indeed a practised novel-reader can soon guess how the story will end. The characters whose existence has become obtrusive are got rid of in the orthodox way—a superfluous gentleman being disposed of by a railway accident, and an equally superfluous lady by consumption. Such merit as the novel has consists in the delineation of the different characters, for there is little incident. Now we do not say

that the *dramatis personæ* are drawn in an exaggerated fashion; still, most of them are not particularly true to nature, and, as a rule, are mere sketches. The leading heroine is a sort of Corinne, without the latter's softness, and, in fact, is somewhat of a she man. The second heroine is the best creation. She is really a true, loving, gentle girl, yet with character and individuality. Her father, too, the clever journalist, who has frittered away his talents in press and magazine work, is true to the life, and the type of many men to be met with in the London world of letters. The hero, the successful poet, is manly, loyal, and honourable, but too sententious to please. Indeed, he seems to have been created expressly for the purpose of airing the author's ideas about the inferiority of titular aristocracy to the "aristocracy of genius." The pompous young politician is simply a tiresome snob, and the villain of the story a personage never met with out of a third-rate melo-drama. The other characters are little more than lay figures, sadly addicted to prosing. Indeed it is obvious that Mr. Gay is far more at home in Bohemia than in fashionable clubs, West-End society, and large country-houses, and has rashly attempted to describe persons and scenes of which, it would seem, that he has no personal knowledge. This is a pity, for if Mr. Gay would take a little trouble with his work, and confine himself to the life with which he is familiar, he might produce a better novel than 'In Spite of Fortune.'

Mr. Farjeon appears to have been induced by the remarks of his critics to desert the school of fiction to which he had attached himself for another, which has hitherto had few, if any, disciples. His former books showed, both in style and matter, the influence of Dickens; and, as is usually the case with that school, the faults of the master were more obvious in the disciple's work than were the merits. Indeed, such merits as there were, were rather Mr. Farjeon's own, as we have more than once pointed out. His stories were somewhat loosely constructed; but he showed a great power of description, and possessed both the invention to conceive his characters and the art to set them clearly before his readers. Now, however, he seems to have come under the influence of Mr. Charles Reade, and is in danger of falling into that author's habit of peopling his scene with curious jerky puppets, whose words and actions have a way of being forcible beyond the necessities of the case, and who are much wanting in repose at all times. Again and again there are bits in this novel which, so far as style goes, are pure Reade. "He had a chat with an enthusiast, who painted Australia in all the colours of the rainbow, and then painted England in ditch colours," might be a sentence taken bodily out of 'Never too Late to Mend'; and the Margaret of Mr. Farjeon's story reminds us in many points besides her name of her namesake in 'The Cloister and the Hearth.' Throughout the story, people are for ever wearing their hearts upon their sleeves in a way which, in real life, one would not need to be an Iago to object to; and the amount of embracing which goes on could only be paralleled at a German railway-station. In spite, however, of these defects, we must say that the story, though artistically imperfect, has many points

to please us. The opening description of an Australian gold-digging settlement is exceedingly vigorous; and there is a good deal of originality in making the real hero of the story the older man, while he who marries the heroine is merely a subordinate, who disappears from it at an early point. In fact the book really consists of two distinct stories, the events of the first half having little or no connexion with those of the second, beyond the fact that they occur to the two people who have most to do with the *dénouement*. Again, in this *dénouement* these two people have no other concern than a deep interest in those most directly involved in it. This, to some extent, mars our interest in the story; for, much as the reader may like Mr. Hart, the elderly actor, and the Margaret already referred to, he cannot feel much sympathy in their efforts to bring to a happy end the love affair of Miss Lucy Hart, whose acquaintance we do not make till after the middle of the story, when her friend, after a short courtship and marriage, has left her husband in his grave on the other side of the world. In the second part the novel indeed falls off a good deal. The incidents are, as has been said, practically quite unaffected by those of the former part; and the expedient by which Margaret brings about the desired marriage, though it might pass in a "Christmas number," is too far-fetched for a serious novel in three volumes. Mr. Farjeon possesses many qualifications for writing a good novel, but he will never do so till he realizes that, in order to attain that end, it is not enough to tell merely a portion of the history of one or two people, however well it may be imagined and described.

Though the heroine of 'Cinderella' is an American girl, and the first half of the story lies in the United States, it would seem that the author belongs to this side of the Atlantic. There is no special local colouring about the American scenes or people which might not be got from books; nor, we think, would a citizen of the great republic write "favourable." Beyond the fact that the author has chosen to make her heroine an American, there is nothing to distinguish 'Cinderella' from many other agreeable little novelettes of the kind. The connexion with the old story is rather forced. Of course, the heroine has a small foot, and a shoe covered with glass beads, which is dropped at a ball, as the clock strikes twelve, and picked up by her lover, in order to bring about their reunion, after they have lost sight of each other for some years. In other respects the parallel is hard to discover; from which it may be seen that the author has no idea of imitating Miss Thackeray, as her title might seem to indicate.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MISS COBBE has reprinted, under the title of *Re-echoes*, a few out of the many articles contributed by her to the *Echo* before it changed hands last year. They bear the re-issue excellently and are good reading. "The Great Divorce Case" is an example of how to handle a difficult subject with delicacy and, at the same time, with strength. Messrs. Williams & Norgate are the publishers.

THERE is no fault to be found with Dr. Julius Rodenberg's *England from the German Point of View*, of which an English translation is now published by Messrs. Bentley & Son, except that the title is a misnomer. There is no "German point

of view" about the book. It is simply a collection of seven excellent essays, about Kent, Shakespeare's London, London coffee-houses, London clubs, and so forth, which happen to be written by a German, but which might just as well have been written by an Englishman in almost the same words. Even the blunders are very few: perhaps if an Englishman had been the writer they would not have been fewer.

THE firm of Sampson Low & Co. sends us two books about Australian colonies, both anonymous, and both without an index; but here all resemblance ends. *Sketches of Australian Life*, by a "Thirty Years' Resident," is a bad book about Victoria. *The Queen of the Colonies*, by an "Eight Years' Resident," is a good one about Queensland. The latter is disfigured by an exaggerated Puritanism, which, however, does not make the author protest sufficiently strong against the barbarities to the natives which are frequent in Queensland, and which he describes. But, with all its faults, and in spite of its ridiculous title, this book deserves the attention of every one interested in the present or future of the colony.

THERE has not for a long time appeared a better book of travel than Lord Dunraven's *The Great Divide*, which relates his travels in the Upper Yellowstone region and in the country of the Crow Indians. There is nothing new in the book, but it is full of clever observation, and both narrative and illustrations are thoroughly good. The publishers are Messrs. Chatto & Windus.

MR. B. F. FRENCH has published, at New York, an interesting book, sold in England by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., on the discovery of Louisiana and Florida by the French and Spanish. It chiefly consists of the narratives of the navigators themselves.

G. P. PUTNAM & SONS, of New York, send us the second series of *Brief Biographies of European Contemporaries*, edited by Col. Higginson, of which we reviewed "English Statesmen" some time since. The present volume contains "English Radical Leaders." There are in it twenty biographies from the pen of Col. R. J. Hinton. We notice a great many misprints in names; but the biographies seem accurate, and are very readable. We wonder at the mention of the names of Mr. Brassey and Sir John Lubbock, who by no means belong to the extreme party which claims most of the other "Radical leaders" here discussed.

Tastes and Habits, by the Rev. S. E. James (Hodder & Stoughton), is the kind of book which, when we first look into it, makes us feel gratified at discovering another person who thinks sensibly on most ordinary subjects of every-day experience; but the gratification is dashed, on further reflection, by the thought that the publication of his opinions to some extent lessens his claim to that character. We mean publication in a collected form, and with the added dignity of a cloth cover, for, of course, as long as able editors will receive, and spirited proprietors pay hard cash for, lucubrations of this kind, their publication in magazines and elsewhere by no means derogates from the writer's character as a man of common sense. The worth of an article (in any acceptance of the word) is what it will fetch; and if our modern Sossii are able to earn money by introducing to the public the views of country clergy and others on such subjects as 'Names of Newspapers,' 'Pretentiousness,' 'The Use and Abuse of Post-cards,' 'Hospitality,' and so forth, those who have the leisure and inclination to do so would be unwise if they refused to offer those views to the Sossii on the understanding that they shall share in the profits. That the supply of this sort of thing is practically inexhaustible may be assumed. Many papers offer weekly to their readers little essays of precisely the same kind as the six-and-twenty which fill Mr. James's modest volume, and yet there seems no symptom of failing. Fortunately such books do not act cumulatively. It would be awful to think of the mental condition of a "constant reader," who had the contents of forty such volumes in his brain at one time, though when

taken in moderation they may serve some useful purpose, not unlike that which in the bodily economy is discharged by such innocent drugs as "Dinneford's fluid magnesia." Those who hate not A. K. H. B. will like Mr. James, and will overlook such little slips as "coterminous" and "quantum valeat," in the satisfaction of finding some of their own floating ideas fixed down by ink on paper.

MESSRS. ROUTLEDGE have sent us an edition of *Harry Lorrequer*, which is convenient in shape. It ranges with the edition the same publishers have lately issued of Lord Lytton's novels.

MR. FROWDE has sent us copies of a *Pocket Reference Bible*, in pearl type, and of an octavo edition in minion. They correspond page for page. Both are excellent specimens of the conventional style of Bible at its best. The paper is excellent, the type clear, and the binding good. In their way nothing could be better. But we wish Mr. Frowde, who shows much energy and taste, would dare to leave the old track, and publish Bibles in the common-sense fashion which the success of the 'Handy Volume Bible' proves to be possible. Claspers are a survival of the days of folios; "references" are a relic of a theory of Biblical Inspiration now almost universally abandoned; and the division into verses instead of paragraphs would probably disappear were "references" got rid of. We believe that if Mr. Frowde would print a Bible in convenient volumes, and not too large type, and divided into paragraphs, he would do much to promote the intelligent study of the Scriptures.

WE have on our table, *A First Latin Exercise Book*, by J. B. Allen, M.A. (Clarendon Press),—*Telegraphy*, by W. H. Preece, C.E., and J. Sivewright, M.A. (Longmans),—*The Fine Arts and their Uses*, by W. Bellars (Smith, Elder & Co.),—*Food, its Adulteration, and the Methods for their Detection*, by A. H. Hassal, M.D. (Longmans),—*The Artillerist's Handbook of Reference*, by Lieut. G. Will, R.A., and Lieut. J. C. Dalton (Clowes),—*The West Coast of Africa*, by the late Commander H. Mc N. Dyer, R.N. (Griffin),—*A Month in Mayo*, by G. Rooper (Hardwicke),—*Florida; its Scenery, Climate, and History*, by S. Lanier (Lippincott),—*Out and About*, by J. H. Friswell (Groombridge),—*Our Laws and Our Poor*, by F. Peak (Day),—*Turks and Christians*, by J. L. Farley (Simpkin),—*Cookery for Invalids*, by Mary Hooper (King),—*Business*, by J. Platt (Simpkin),—*Burning Questions*, by W. Molitor (Burns & Oates),—*Roderick Hudson*, by H. James, jun. (Tribner),—*Reflections and Maxims*, by W. Penn (Groombridge),—*The Literature of Kissing*, by C. C. Bombaugh, A.M., M.D. (Lippincott),—*The Desert*, by R. Gemmell (Simpkin),—*Nora and Mildred*, by M. E. Bewsher (Church of England Sunday School Institute),—*A Candle Lighted by the Lord* (Strahan),—*Christmas Chimes and New Year Rhymes* (Pickering),—*The Legend of the Roses*, by S. J. Watson (Toronto, Hunter, Rose & Co.),—*John Todd, the Story of his Life*, compiled and edited by J. E. Todd (Low),—*The Church of all Ages*, by W. J. Irons, D.D. (Hayes),—*The Church of England and Ritualism*, by the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P. (Strahan),—*The Greatest of Miracles*, by Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe (Hatchard's),—*The Schoolboy Saint*, by Mrs. F. J. Mitchell (Hayes),—*The Lord's Prayer*, by C. J. Vaughan, D.D. (Strahan),—*The Angel of the Lord*, by W. P. Walsh, D.D. (Seeley),—and *Seekers after Rest*, by H. M. Barclay (Seeley).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Theology.*
Aitken's (Rev. W. H. M. H.) Brighton Mission Sermons, January, 1876, cr. 8vo. 4/6 cl.
Airy's (Sir G. B.) Notes on Earlier Hebrew Scriptures, 6/ cl.
Batgate's (W.) Deep Things of God, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Cumming's (Rev. J.) Watchman, What of the Night? 6/ cl.
Harrison's (Rev. W.) Daily Readings for Holy Seasons, Lent, cr. 8vo. 2/ cl.
Keeble's (Rev. J.) Sermons for Christian Year, Holy Week, 6/ Kynaston's (Rev. H.) Sermons in the College Chapel, Cheltenham, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Mac Eilar's (Rev. R.) Sermons, Memorials of a Ministry on the Clyde, cr. 8vo. 7/ cl.
Norris's (J. P.) Rudiments of Theology, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Phayre's Teachings of the Holy Catholic Church, Lent, 7/6 cl.

Prynne's (Rev. G. R.) Parochial Sermons, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Sanday's (W.) History and Use of the Four Gospels in the Second Century, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Turner's (Rev. W.) Studies, Biblical and Oriental, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.

Law.
Bunning and Sand's New Scale of Fees under Judicature Act, cr. 8vo. 4/ cl.
Mulholland's (W.) Tabular Chart to Proceedings in an Action, Court of Judicature, 1/6 sheet.

Phillimore's (Sir R.) Principal Ecclesiastical Judgments, 12/ *Fine Art.*
Davison's (The Mises) Triqueti Marbles in the Albert Memorial Chapel, Windsor, folio, 210/ hf. morocco.

Poetry and the Drama.
Anthology of Modern French Poetry, Junior Course, Edited, by Prof. C. Cassal and Prof. T. Karcher, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
Molière's Dramatic Works, translated by Van Laun, Vol. 8, 12/

History.
Bright's (Rev. J. F.) English History, Period 2, 12mo. 5/ cl.
Butler's (Major W. F.) Akim-Foo, 3rd edit. cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Dickens's (J.) Life, by J. Forster, 2 vols. 8vo. 28/ cl.
Draper's (J. W.) Intellectual Development of Europe, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 5/ cl. (Bohn's Philosophical Library.)
Howitt's Vignettes from American History, 12mo. 1/6 cl.
O'Connor's (Rev. W. A.) A History of the Irish People, Book 1, 1/6 cl.
Raikes's (Capt. G. A.) Historical Records of the First Regiment of Militia, 8vo. 21/ cl.
Shelburne (William, Earl of), Life of, by Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Vol. 2, 8vo. 12/ cl.

Geography.
Ceylon, a General Description of the Island, by an Officer, 2 vols. 8vo. 28/ cl.
Foryth's (W.) Slavonic Provinces South of the Danube, 5/ Reed's (E. J.) Letters from Russia in 1875, 8vo. 6/ cl.

Philology.
Hauff's Marchen, with Vocabulary by A. Hoare, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Lang's (H.) New German Method, Vol. 1, 8vo. 2/6 cl.
Wilkins's (H. M.) Rules of Latin Syntax, 8vo. 2/ cl.

Science.
Balfour's (G. W.) Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Heart, 8vo. 12/6 cl.
Dittmar's (W.) Manual of Qualitative Chemical Analysis, 5/ Gross's (E. J.) Elementary Treatise on Kinematics and Kinetics, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.
Radcliffe's (C. B.) Vital Motion as a Mode of Physical Motion, 8vo. 8/6 cl.

General Literature.
Bray's (Mrs. C.) Paul Bradley, fcap. 8vo. 1/6 cl.
City of London Directory, 1876, royal 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Colonial Office List, January, 1876, 8vo. 6/ cl.
De Vere's Chart of Fashions, Spring and Summer, 1876, 5/ Dickens's Great Expectations, Household Edition, 4to. 2/6 cl.
Dod's Parliamentary Companion, 1876, 32mo. 4/6 cl.
Foreign Office List, January, 1876, 8vo. 5/ cl.
London Journal, Vol. 62, 4to. 4/6 cl.
Marco's (Don Arturo de) Internationalism, roy. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Martin's Statesman's Year Book, 1876, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Monsieur Maurice, cr. 8vo. 2/ bds: Lords and Ladies, cr. 8vo. 2/ cl. (Select Library of Fiction.)

Notes and Queries, 5th Series, Vol. 4, 4to. 10/6 cl.
Romans vii., What does it Teach? fcap. 2/ cl.
Selections from Addison's Papers Contributed to Spectator, edited by T. Arnold, 12mo. 4/6 cl.
Through the Ages, by Author of the 'Honeymoon,' 2 vols. 3/6 cl.
Typical Selections from Best English Writers, 2 vols. 3/6 each.

RONDEL.

"Carpe diem."

TO-DAY what is there in the air
That makes December seem sweet May?
There are no swallows anywhere,
Nor crocuses to crown your hair
And hail you down my garden way.
Last night the full moon's frozen stare
Struck me, perhaps; or did you say
Really, you'd come, sweet friend and fair,
To-day!

To-day is here,—come, crown to-day
With Spring's delight or Spring's despair!
Love cannot bide old Time's delay;—
Down my glad gardens light winds play,
And my whole soul shall bloom and bear
To-day!

THEO MARZIALS.

THE TEMPLE OF BELUS.

I HAVE discovered a Babylonian text, giving a remarkable account of the Temple of Belus at Babylon, and as my approaching departure for Nineveh does not allow me time to make a full translation of the document, I have prepared a short account for your readers, giving the principal points in the arrangement and dimensions of the buildings.

Additional interest attaches to this inscription from the fact that it is the first time any detailed description of a temple has been found in the cuneiform texts, it thus supplies the first information as to the dimensions of the great temples, and it is fortunate that the one described was the most famous in the valley of the Euphrates.

The importance of this temple is well known, it was the grandest religious edifice in the country,

the centre of the national worship, and one of the wonders of the capital, Babylon.

This temple was founded centuries before Babylon became the chief city in the state, and retained its fame even down to Roman times. Herodotus and Strabo have given us accounts of the Temple of Belus, the former representing the principal building as one stage in length and breadth, and as consisting of eight stages or towers one above another, forming a pyramid, the highest stage being the sanctuary. Strabo states that this building was a stage in height, a stage being supposed to equal about 600 English feet.

The height given by Strabo for the tower of the Temple of Belus has already been considered very questionable (see Rawlinson's 'Ancient Monarchies,' Vol. II., p. 515), and now that we have the dimensions of the building must be rejected.

First, I must remark on the Babylonian measures used, that they are principally the cubit, equal to about one foot eight inches English, and the *gar* or *sa*, equal to twelve cubits, or twenty feet English; but there is another series of numbers used in measuring, consisting apparently of numbers of barleycorns arranged in sixties, thus the first number is a length of 11'33"20, which consists of $11 \times 3,600 + 33 \times 60 + 20$ barleycorns, in all 41,600 barleycorns, or 1,155 feet 7 inches. The barleycorn was the standard unit of measure among the Babylonians, and for this reason was used sometimes in measures of length without the other terms.

First in the tablet we have the measure of the outer court, called the "Grand Court," which is given at 11'33"20 in length (that is, about 1,156 feet) and 9' in breadth (that is, 900 feet). There is a calculation as to the area of this court, which I pass over, and come to the next court, called the "Court of Ishtar and Zamama." This space is reckoned as 10'33"20 in length (1,056 feet) and 4'30" (450 feet) in breadth. There is again here a calculation of area, which I omit.

Round the court were six gates admitting to the temples. These were, 1, the grand gate; 2, the gate of the rising sun (east); 3, the great gate; 4, the gate of the Colossi; 5, the gate of the canal; and 6, the gate of the tower-view.

The next division is the space or platform apparently walled, and called a *ki-galli, sur*, or *bitut*. It is uncertain if this was paved, and its extent is also uncertain. It is stated as a square, three *ku* in length, and three *ku* in breadth, but the value of the *ku* is uncertain. The four walls faced the cardinal points, in this agreeing with the other parts, all the buildings having their sides east, west, north, and south.

There were four gates, one in the centre of each side of this division. 1, the gate of the rising sun (east); 2, the southern gate; 3, the gate of the setting sun (west); 4, the northern gate.

Inside stood some building or enclosure, the name of which is damaged. It was 10 *gar* long and 10 *gar* broad (200 feet by 200), connected with the great Ziggurat or tower, which was the inner and crowning edifice of the group. Round the base of the Ziggurat or tower were ranged the chapels or temples of the principal gods, on its four sides, and facing the cardinal points.

On the eastern side stood a sanctuary or temple, 70 or 80 cubits long and 40 cubits broad (117 or 133 feet by 67 feet), with sixteen shrines, the principal being the shrines devoted to the god Nebo and Urmit, or Tasmit his wife. Nebo was considered the eldest son of Bel, the great deity of the temple.

On the northern side stood two temples, one devoted to the god Hea, the other to Nusku. The temple of Hea was 85 cubits long and 30 broad (142 feet by 50 feet), and that of Nusku was a square, 35 cubits each way (58 feet by 58 feet).

On the southern side stood a single temple, dedicated to the two great gods, Anu and Bel. This was 70 cubits long and thirty cubits broad (117 feet by 50 feet).

On the western side were the principal buildings, consisting of a double house, with a court between the two wings. On the one side the wing was

100 cubits long and 20 cubits broad (166 feet by 34 feet). On the other side the wing was 100 cubits long and 65 cubits broad (166 feet by 108 feet), and the space between them was 35 cubits wide (58 feet). The building at the back was 125 cubits long and 30 cubits broad (208 feet by 50 feet). I do not properly comprehend the disposition of the buildings on this side, and my description of the position of the western temples must be taken as conjectural. In these western chambers stood the couch of the god, and the throne of gold mentioned by Herodotus, besides other furniture of great value. The couch is stated to have been 9 cubits long and 4 cubits broad (15 feet by 6 feet 8 inches).

In the centre of these groups of temples stood the grandest portion of the whole pile, the great Ziggurat, or temple tower, built in stages, its sides facing the cardinal points.

The bottom or first stage was a square in plan, 15 *gar* in length and breadth, and 5½ *gar* in height (300 feet square, 110 feet high). This stage appears to have been indented or ornamented with buttresses.

The next or second stage of the tower was also square, being 13 *gar* in length and breadth, and 3 *gar* in height (260 feet square, 60 feet high). The epithet applied to this stage is obscure; it had probably sloping sides.

The third stage differs widely from the lower ones, and commences a regular progressive series of stages, all of equal height. It was 10 *gar* in length and breadth, and 1 *gar* in height (200 feet square, 20 feet high).

The fourth stage was 8½ *gar* in length and breadth, and 1 *gar* in height (170 feet square, 20 feet high).

The fifth stage was 7 *gar* in length and breadth, and 1 *gar* in height (140 feet square, 20 feet high).

Probably by accident, the dimensions of the sixth stage of the tower are omitted in the inscription, but they can be easily restored in accordance with the others. This stage must have been 5½ *gar* in length and breadth, and one *gar* in height (110 feet square, 20 feet high).

On this was raised the seventh stage, which was the upper temple or sanctuary of the god Bel. This building had a length of 4 *gar*, a breadth of 3½ *gar*, and a height of 2½ *gar* (80 feet long, 70 feet broad, and 50 feet high).

Thus the whole height of this tower above its foundation was 15 *gar*, or 300 feet, exactly equal to the breadth of the base; and, as the foundation was most probably raised above the level of the ground, it would give a height of over 300 feet above the plain for this grandest of Babylonian temples.

The only ruin now existing at or near Babylon which can be supposed to represent the temple of Belus is the mound and enclosure of Babil, the ruins corresponding fairly with the account of these structures in the Greek authors and the inscription. The sides of the building face the cardinal points, like those in the inscriptions; the remains of the two sides of the enclosure now existing indicate a circumference about equal to the Greek measure, and slightly in excess of that in the inscription; but it must be remembered that the exact length of the Babylonian measures is not known, and there are different opinions even as to the length of the Greek stade, while the present remains of the wall require careful measurement to determine more exactly their length and the dimensions they indicate. On the other side of the Euphrates stands a ruin, Birs Nimroud, also consisting of an enclosure, various temples, and a temple-tower, but this represents the site of the temple of Nebo at Borsippa, and its angles, instead of its sides, face the cardinal points, while not a single one of its known dimensions agrees with the corresponding point in the inscription. The mound of Babil, which is already identified by the best authorities with the Temple of Belus, consists now of the lower stage of the tower and the ruins of the buildings round it. We can only conjecture that the magnificent superstructure was removed by Alexander in his opera-

tions for clearing the site and rebuilding the temple, a work he did not live to accomplish.

In my last work, the 'Chaldean Account of Genesis,' I have adopted the opinion that the Birs Nimroud, or Borsippa Tower, was the tower of Babel mentioned in Genesis; but the fact of the existence at Babylon itself of a tower twice the height of Birs Nimroud materially alters the evidence on this question.

I remember well ascending the mound of Birs Nimroud and seeing the wide expanse of the Chaldean plain, visible from that elevation, but certainly, in the time of the glory of Babylon, a much more magnificent sight must have greeted the beholder from the top of the Belus tower. This magnificent temple, rising more than 300 feet above the plain (twice the height of Birs Nimroud), and towering far above every other building in the country, overlooked the capital, Babylon, and commanded a view of cities and temples, river and canals, cultivated fields and gardens, unequalled in the world.

The adornment of the Temple of Belus with gold and silver, the splendid colours of its paintings, and the richness of its furniture and statuary, combined to make it one of the grandest buildings of the ancient world, and earned for it the names of the "Basis of heaven and earth" and the "Glory of the city of Babylon."

GEORGE SMITH.

THE DEATH OF HALFDEN.

Bishop's House, Clifton, 1876.

IN the *Athenæum* of Jan. 15, I notice a letter from Mr. Henry H. Howorth, in which he calls the attention of your readers to what he considers a curious mistake on the part of all standard histories of the ninth century. This mistake relates to the place of the death of Halfden the Dane, king of Northumbria, which historians say happened in Devonshire, at a place called Cynwith, the site of which is unknown. Mr. Howorth calls attention to certain passages in the 'Chronicon Scriptorum' and the 'Wars of the Danes in Ireland,' from which he infers that Cynwith was not in Devonshire, but in Ireland, and that it is in truth Loch Strangford, in the county Down.

But Mr. Howorth himself has made a strange mistake. The Danish chief who fell at Cynwith was, according to all historians, not Halfden, but a brother of Halfden. "Frater Inguari et Halfdeni," says Asser. So do the others. Dr. Pauli, quoted by Mr. Howorth, writes (p. 94):—"His name is not mentioned, but we may guess it without much doubt to have been Ubba." Thus the whole of Mr. Howorth's argument against the credibility of Asser falls to the ground. For if the Danish chief Albann, who is stated in the Irish Chronicles to have fallen at Loch Strangford is "undoubtedly Halfden," as Mr. Howorth asserts, then it is clear that those Chronicles and Asser are treating of two perfectly different events. The one describes the death of Halfden, the other that of his brother Ubba, and there is no reason for confounding Loch Strangford with the Castle of Cynwith. The real site of this castle has been treated by me at some length in a paper which will shortly appear amongst the *Transactions* of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year 1875.

But though Mr. Howorth has been mistaken in not distinguishing between the two brothers, still if he is able to show that the Albann of the Irish narrative is really the same as Halfden of Northumbria, the discovery will be a valuable one, throwing light upon what has hitherto been an obscure passage of our history.

In the year 876 we find Halfden parcelling out Northumbria amongst his followers. From that date nothing more is heard of him. And when, in 878, the peace of Wedmore is signed between Alfred and Gothrum, we find that this chieftain, and not Halfden, assumes power over the Northumbrians. What then had become of Halfden? If Mr. Howorth is correct in identifying him with Albann, he had met his death at Loch Strangford, in Ireland. The most probable course of events

would seem to be as follows:—Hallden and Ubba were almost sure to be amongst the chiefs who joined under Gothrum to attempt the conquest of Wessex in 877. In the summer of that year they were forced to make terms with Alfred at Exeter, and swore to depart from his kingdom. Gothrum returned to Gloster; his ships, therefore, must have sailed round the Land's End, and ascended the Severn. Ubba pillaged South Wales, and wintered there. He, therefore, with his followers, seems to have parted company with Gothrum on entering the Bristol Channel. Hallden probably parted company at the same time, and proceeded northwards towards Northumbria, but turning to Ireland landed in Loch Strangford, and there met his fate. Thus, when, in the following spring, Ubba sailed to rejoin Gothrum, Hallden was not able to do the same; and when after the death of Ubba the peace of Wedmore was concluded, Gothrum alone remained of the great Danish leaders to rule over the Danish possessions in East Anglia and in Northumbria.

WILLIAM CLIFFORD.

PEPYS'S DIARY.

23, Sussex Place, Regent's Park.

In the *Athenæum* of January 29th, I am charged with availing myself of Mr. Smith's labours without making him due acknowledgment. I have already denied, and again I altogether deny, that, in learning the cipher, I used Mr. Smith's labours as the key. I obtained my knowledge of the cipher quite independently of Mr. Smith, and from quite a different source. Mr. Smith acquired his knowledge of the cipher from the late Lord Grenville. There is an interesting letter stating that fact, I think, in the *Illustrated News*, written, shortly after Lord Braybrooke's death, by Mr. R. Neville-Grenville. I gained my knowledge of the cipher from a book in the Pepysian library, containing, among other ciphers, one by *Shelton*, which is the cipher used by Pepys, not that one mentioned by Lord Braybrooke, "known by the name of Rich's System," which has several letters different from those in Pepys's cipher.

The edition of the 'Diary' that I refer to, is the last one "revised and corrected" by Lord Braybrooke, and published, in 1854, in four volumes octavo. In this edition there are all the mistakes exactly as I have stated them, as any one can ascertain by examination. The reviewer says, "Mr. Bright would have done well if he had indicated his new matter by placing it within brackets." As I have made corrections and additions almost in every page of the 'Diary,' that would have quite disfigured the book.

With respect to the additional matter, every one, of course, can form his own opinion. I will only say that, in the many letters that I have received, the writers all agree in hoping that I will publish as much as is possible of the Diary, and therefore I have thought fit to err rather on the side of putting in too much than too little.

MYNORS BRIGHT.

** Would not a notice of the labours of his predecessor have been a graceful act on Mr. Bright's part?

THE CALENDAR OF HENRY THE EIGHTH.

As it has been stated in a newspaper that I have transgressed the order of the Master of the Rolls in the Introductions prefixed to my Calendar, I wish to remark that I have strictly observed that order by confining myself to the materials and the documents found in my volumes,—too strictly, perhaps, to please some persons. From the order referred to I was specially exempted by Lord Romilly's direction; neither has the public press nor the public in general, with one single exception, hitherto expressed any dissatisfaction with Lord Romilly's decision.

As to another assertion, that the nation is put to great expense by these Introductions, I have further to state that the reverse is the fact. The nation incurs no expense whatever on their account beyond the cost of the paper and print, for they have always been written in my leisure hours,

without any interruption in the preparation of the Calendar itself. I will not conceal my conviction that no other nation possesses such advantages as this Calendar offers for studying the history, not of England alone, but of Europe during the great period of the Reformation, and I have undertaken this extra and unpaid labour for no other purpose than that of assisting my readers, and rendering a great national work as worthy of the nation as it was possible for me to do. That those who wish to have the Calendar alone and set no value on my Introductions might have no cause to complain that in purchasing the one they were compelled to take the other, it was deemed advisable to print this last Introduction by itself, an arrangement no less convenient to those who wish for the Introduction and do not care for the Calendar.

J. S. BREWER.

THE MARQUIS GINO CAPPONI.

Florence, February 4, 1876.

YESTERDAY Tuscany lost her most eminent son, Italy the last representative of the great literary epoch that prepared the way for our political resurrection. With Gino Capponi a literary era ends, a new one begins, of which some day we shall see the fruits. We hope for a prosperous future, but the literature of to-day is not remarkable, and we naturally turn our eyes back to the past.

Gino Capponi was not, properly speaking, himself a great worker, although his 'Storia della Repubblica di Firenze' showed an activity extraordinary in an old man; but he encouraged and stimulated the labours of such men as Ugo Foscolo, Leopardi, Colletta, Giambattista Niccolini, Giuseppe Giusti, Cesare Balbo, Massimo d'Azeglio, Niccolò Tommaseo, &c. In fact, all the illustrious writers of Italy, from 1810 till his death, have owed something to him, and had a habit of turning to him as a sort of Mæcenas and permanent minister of literature. And it may be said he was worthy of the homage paid to him. Rich, he was generous; intelligent, he rejoiced in the intellectual progress of his country. He did not seek for glory, yet no future historian of Italian literature can pass his name over. He did not merely give money, he assisted with his advice and his influence; and his hospitality was liberal and cordial.

With Gino Capponi dies out an illustrious house, and he has left no male children. The first Capponi did good service to the Florentine Republic. The last was the historian of the Republic, and the servant of Italy. He was born on the 14th of September, 1792. He was carefully educated, and in his early youth he made the acquaintance of Foscolo, Niccolini, and Cesare Balbo, from whom he acquired a taste for literature, especially such as tended to elevate and enlighten his country. After travelling in France, England, and Germany (1818-1820), he returned to Florence to help in starting the *Antologia* (1820-1833). In 1844, he had the misfortune to lose his eyesight. In 1848, he was President of the Constitutional Ministry in Tuscany. When the Grand Duke fled, Capponi declared to the Assembly that when a prince disappeared the people had a right to govern themselves; he made no opposition to the proclamation of the Republic, and when the Austrians entered Tuscany, he said he was glad he was blind, so that he could not see them. He favoured the establishment of the Kingdom, and was named a Senator by the King, who also gave him the Collar of the Order of the Annunziata. He was President of the Accademia della Crusca. In Capponi, Florence has lost her noblest noble. May some young patrician arise to fill the void his death has caused. ANGELO DE GUBERNATIS.

Literary Gossip.

NEXT week, probably, we shall publish the poem by Mr. Swinburne which we mentioned about a fortnight ago.

SOME twelve years ago, an "Upper Section of Assistants" was created at the British

Museum as a reward for "special merits and good service." One of these places is vacant by the resignation, owing to age and ill health of an assistant in the coin-room; and, at a meeting of the Trustees to be held to-day, the vacancy will be filled up. It is no secret that the resignation was laid before the Trustees in November last, and a proposal was then made to appoint on the spot a gentleman who can hardly be said to possess "special merits," and who has served just four years in his department. This mode of proceeding, however, was so irregular, that the Trustees deferred the election. That they will have little difficulty in finding, on the staff of the Museum, individuals who deserve recognition for "special merits and good service" may be imagined when we state that in the Lower Section of Assistants are counted Mr. A. S. Murray, well known for his knowledge of classical archaeology; Mr. George Smith, who has won a European reputation as an Assyrian scholar; Mr. Granville, for so many years the clerk in the Reading-room; and other distinguished men.

SINCE we published Prof. de Gubernatis's last letter respecting the death of Shelley, we have learned from two English ladies, who have recently visited Leri, and made personal inquiries on the spot, that a report of a confession, such as that ascribed to the old sailor, was afloat twelve years ago, as stated in "V. E.'s" letter. It may be added that the tradition of Shelley's death not having been accidental is mentioned in Dr. Bennett's 'Shores of the Mediterranean,' published before Miss Trelawny's story was heard of. The latter, it can hardly be doubted, is merely an inaccurate version of "V. E.'s." The truth of the dying seaman's story is, of course, quite another matter. To the objections already suggested by ourselves and others, we may add its inconsistency with the fact of the spot where Shelley's boat sank having, according to Mr. Trelawny, been pointed out by the crew of another Italian vessel, which must have either committed or witnessed the outrage, had such occurred, and would in either case have been exceedingly unlikely to contribute any information that could bring it to light.

THE *St. James's Magazine* for March will contain an original sonnet, by Shelley. It is said to be in the poet's own handwriting, and forms one of a series of Shelley MSS., in the possession of Mr. Townshend Mayer, many of which he has lent to Mr. Buxton Forman for use in the preparation of his edition of Shelley's Works, to be published by Messrs. Reeves & Turner.

In the biographical notice of the late Mr. Forster, which we published last week, we referred to the proposal made by him some years ago to the Council of the Literary Fund, to appropriate a considerable portion of his property in its interests upon certain conditions. His offer being declined, we believe that he then talked of leaving his books to his native town of Newcastle, but we now hear of a valuable bequest to the South Kensington Museum. This has probably taken the place of the gift to Newcastle. Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, we may add, will contribute personal notes and recollections of Mr. Forster to the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March.

THE March number of the *Contemporary Review* will contain articles by Mr. Gladstone and the Duke of Argyll. Mr. Matthew Arnold's second paper on Bishop Butler and the Zeit-Geist will appear in the same number of that magazine.

DR. BRINSLEY NICHOLSON has undertaken to edit, and Messrs. George Bell & Sons to publish, a collection of the doubtful plays formerly attributed to Shakspeare. The edition will include 'The Two Noble Kinsmen,' in which another hand than Fletcher's is visible, though whether that hand is Shakspeare's is doubtful; and 'Edward III.,' in the King and Countess act of which some authorities of weight hold that Shakspeare took part at least, though this opinion is not generally accepted. The idea of the edition is due to Mr. Furnivall.

MR. J. B. SHEPPARD is about to edit, for the Camden Society, 'Christ Church Letters,' relating to the domestic affairs of the Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. In most cases they are written by or addressed to the Prior, and a great majority belong to the correspondence of Prior Sellyng, who ruled the house in the reigns of Edward the Fourth, Richard the Third, and Henry the Seventh. Several of the Prior's correspondents were employed about the Court, and their contributions contain some bits of gossip; whilst others, occupied in London in looking after the interests of the convent, chronicle small beer, with a minuteness which, at this distance of time, makes their letters very interesting. Mr. Thompson's volume of the 'Prideaux Correspondence' is in the binder's hands, for immediate issue. Mr. Horwood's edition of Milton's 'Common Place Book' will be issued in May, to the subscribers of the year 1876-7, to be followed by Mr. Gairdner's volume on 'The Siege of Rouen.' The Council of the Society have resolved to offer to the public the volumes of the first series remaining in stock at members' reduced prices, thus allowing such books as 'The Household Expenses of Bishop Swinfield,' or 'The Secret-Service Money of Charles the Second and James the Second,' to be acquired for 3s. 6d. A priced list is to be had on application to Messrs. Nichols, 25, Parliament Street, S.W.

SEVERAL new hieroglyphic forms have been discovered by Dr. Birch among inscriptions in the collections of Mr. Robert Hay, of Linplum, who visited Egypt upwards of forty years ago.

THE Life of the Author of 'Spanish Literature,' George Ticknor, of Boston, will appear very shortly. Mr. Hillard was to have edited it, but, owing to his illness, much of the task has fallen to Mr. Ticknor's widow and daughter. The book will be in two volumes, and will chiefly consist of Mr. Ticknor's own letters and journals. This accomplished American was intimate with many of the most distinguished men on both sides of the Atlantic, and the memoir should prove of interest.

MESSRS. H. S. KING & Co. will shortly publish a volume by Captain J. H. Baldwin, F.Z.S., of the Bengal Staff Corps, under the title of 'The Large and Small Game of India.' It will be illustrated by engravings, from sketches taken by the author

during his wanderings, and by photographs, taken from life, of the animals referred to in the book.

A NEW book, on 'Manchester and its Neighbourhood,' by Mr. Richard Wright Procter, author of 'Memorials of Manchester Streets,' &c., is just completed, and ready for the press. A considerable portion of the work is devoted to what the author terms "the romance of local history," in which remarkable occurrences in bygone years are recalled to the memory of the present generation.

M. NAVILLE, of Geneva, has been commissioned by the Prussian Government to prepare an eclectic text of the Egyptian *Ritual of the Dead*, and is at present engaged in an examination of the principal papyri in England. We hope to give, at an early date, some notice of a prospectus issued by Dr. Birch, and other Egyptologists, in reference to the proposed publication of this important literary record.

MESSRS. WARNE & Co. write:—"In your review of 'Pepys's Diary,' January 29, 1876, you omitted to state that there had also been issued an edition in 'The Chandos Library,' at 3s. 6d., which contained all the matter of the Braybrooke original edition, with a preface by John Timbs."

MR. JAMES COLSTON, Treasurer of the city of Edinburgh, and head of the firm of Messrs. Colston & Son of that city, is at present engaged on a 'History of Printing in Scotland.' The work will be published in a few months.

'LUTCHMEE AND DILLOO,' the new story by the author of 'Ginx's Baby,' will be begun in the March number of *Evening Hours*, which contains the first of a series of papers on the "Self-Made Man" (Carl von Klöden), by Mr. Samuel Smiles.

MR. F. PINCOTT is about to publish, as an advanced text-book for Hindi students, a critical text of the Hindi translation of Sakuntalâ, with numerous grammatical and explanatory notes.

'VIEWS OF MANCHESTER IN 1876' is the title of a work now in preparation. It will contain about forty views of the chief public buildings, streets, and warehouses in Manchester. The illustrations, which will be photographed by Mr. A. Brothers, will be printed by the autotype process. There will be no copies for sale when the work is issued, as only the number subscribed for beforehand will be printed. Mr. James Croston, F.S.A., will edit the book, and Mr. J. E. Cornish, of Manchester, will be the publisher.

THE second Session of the Congress of Orientalists at Marseilles will take place from the 4th to the 10th of October next, under the presidency of M. l'abbé F. Tenongi. A subscription of ten francs will admit one member, on application at the Secretariat of the Congress, 2, Place de la Préfecture, Marseilles.

THE 'Life of Lord Lyttelton,' announced for early publication by Messrs. Tinsley Brothers, is not, we understand, a new biography of the first lord; but the hitherto untold history of the second lord, whose name is associated with an exploded ghost-story and a large amount of scandal. Numerous unpublished

letters have been placed at the author's disposal by the present Lord Lyttelton, for the purpose of this biography, including one giving Combe's own account of the alleged forgery of the correspondence published in 1780, which, however, the author believes to be genuine.

It is with great regret that we hear of the death of Lady Chatterton, a most amiable, accomplished woman. She was the author of many novels, poems, and books of travel in Ireland, the Pyrenees, &c. She also wrote a Life of Admiral Lord Gambier.

MR. DAYDON JACKSON, who is engaged on a reprint of Gerard's 'Catalogue,' writes to us:—

"Last December I wrote to the Clerk of the Barbers' Company, requesting information as to Gerard's standing in the Company, and so forth; not receiving a reply, I called upon that gentleman, who explained that he was much pressed for time, but that if I would wait until a certain specified date, I could inspect the old records in the presence of his clerk, who would be at the Hall on other business, otherwise he would charge me for clerk's time. Accordingly I consented to wait nearly a month, and last Tuesday I looked over the minute and 'ordinance' books of the Company, finding a few items of interest relative to Gerard. The next day, to my great surprise, I received a letter, requesting me to remit the sum of one guinea for clerk's time! I actually spent from eleven o'clock to half-past one at the Hall, during which time the Clerk's clerk was engaged in the Company's business. He may have devoted a quarter of an hour to me altogether, not more, and his employer has the modesty to come down upon me for the above 'moderate amount.'"

SINCE the time of the Wizard-Warden of Manchester (Dr. Dee), and of the antiquary, Christopher Towneley of Towneley, Lancashire has supplied many famous names to the roll of mathematical scholars. It is said that one of the earliest surviving Manchester-printed books is a work on Mathematics, by a local mathematician, 1718. Amongst the chief geometers, about the end of that century, was Henry Clarke, LL.D., of Manchester and Salford, who was ranked by the learned Bishop Horsley as an "inventor in mathematics." Clarke, however, also attained no unworthy place in other fields of learning. Mr. J. E. Bailey, F.S.A., of Stratford, Manchester, is now collecting materials for a more extended account of Dr. Clarke than the imperfect notice given in Baines's 'Lancashire'; and he would thankfully acknowledge the receipt of any authentic memorials concerning Dr. Clarke, from his descendants or from others. Clarke himself projected an account of his 'Life and Writings,' to contain, besides, records of his intercourse with many of the celebrated philosophers and mathematicians of his time; and it is to be hoped that these MSS. may come to light. Born in 1743, Clarke died at Islington, in 1810, leaving two sons and two daughters.

THE Vienna papers record the death of Herr Franz Haydinger, one of the most ardent bibliopoles of that city. In the course of a long life he collected 21,000 volumes, many of them *unica*, or editions of rare value. His library is particularly rich in works bearing upon the history of his native town. Up to the time of his decease he conducted an eating-house, waiting personally upon his customers in the old style. The library is to be sold by public auction.

SCIENCE

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

NEWS has recently been received from Lieut. Cameron, at St. Paulo de Loanda, to the effect that he had been compelled to purchase a vessel for the conveyance of his negro followers from that place to Zanzibar. The vessel was to sail about the end of the year, and the traveller himself would leave for England soon afterwards. We may, therefore, expect him in the course of two or three weeks, unless he breaks his journey at Madeira, as his friends have recommended.

Lieut. Chippindall, R.E., who rendered good service to Col. Gordon in his survey work on the Upper Nile, but was sent home invalided last autumn, has now returned to Egypt to resume his duties. It is hoped he will soon have an opportunity of completing his work of tracing the Nile to its outlet from Albert Nyanza, he having been, during his journey to the Koshi tribe, in March, 1875, nearer to that desiderated geographical point than any other European.

Dr. Schweinfurth writes to us from Cairo that he has carefully laid down Linant de Bellefonds' route on a map drawn on a large scale. It appears that the "canal" on Stanley's map does not enter the Luajerri, but communicates with Murchison Bay, which it enters near its northern extremity, close to Mtesa's capital. Dr. Schweinfurth protests, too, against Col. Grant's charge of having committed "blunders" in his 'Heart of Central Africa.' The Colonel's charge could refer only to the small map appended to the book, where the Victoria Nyanza is cut up into several lakes, and Dr. Schweinfurth felt constrained either to reject the "inverted delta," laid down on Speke's map, or to derive the river branches forming it from distinct lakes. He did the latter, and if Stanley demonstrated that there is but one lake of vast size, it must not be forgotten that he likewise demolished that puzzling "inverted delta."

Baron Eugene von Ransonnnet has just published, at Brunswick (G. Westerman), an important work, entitled 'Skizzen aus Singapur und Djohor.' It is finely illustrated, and contains a sketch-map of the island of Singapore.

The telegraphic link between our distant colonies, Australia and New Zealand, has been successfully commenced. The Hibernia, which left England in the middle of November with the cable on board, reached Sydney on the 31st ult., where she met her consort, the Edinburgh, and, after coaling, commenced laying the cable. At noon on Sunday last 156 miles had been paid out. We hope in our next number to record the completion of this important line.

We regret to have to hear of the death of Dr. Richard King, the Polar traveller, who expired on Friday, the 4th inst. He was with Admiral Sir George Back in his journey to the North Pole, in 1833-4-35. He was the founder of the Ethnological Society, and served on the Councils of that Society, and the Statistical. He was likewise a prolific author. His chief works were 'Franklin Expedition, from First to Last,' 'Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Arctic Ocean,' 'History of the Esquimaux,' 'March of Death in St. Giles's' (in which he advocates his gaseous theory of cholera epidemic), 'Cause of Death in the Still-Born.' He edited, for some time, the *Statistical Journal* and the *Ethnological Journal*, and was a copious contributor to the *Medical Times* and the *Anthropological Review*.

M. de Brazza and party arrived at Lembarenli on November 10, 1875. Lembarenli is a village of the Inlenga tribe, and is situated in lat. 41° 10' S. and long 10° 38' 30" E., on the left bank of the Ogowe, just below the confluence of that river with the Nguni. It will, for the present, be the head-quarters of the expedition. M. de Brazza was likely to experience great difficulty in obtaining canoe-men, as the Inlenga and Iguala demanded ten dollars per man for the trip to Lopé, a journey of only about ten days' duration, but which would have to be repeated several times on account of

the large quantity of baggage belonging to the expedition. M. de Brazza's escort consisted of only fifteen Sénégalais, so that he has probably relinquished the idea of making his way by force, which would be utterly impossible with so few men.

Prof. Nordenskjöld's voyage to the Kara Sea and Yenesei river is already creating much interest. For some time past it has been proposed to connect the White Sea and the Gulf of Finland by means of a canal, and it is reported that the Senate of Finland has voted 600,000 marks towards its construction, the Professor's successful voyage having given great impetus to the undertaking.

At the last sitting of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, Dr. Bocage presiding, Dr. Bernardino, in an eloquent address, proposed a resolution expressing the high appreciation of the Academy of the labours of Lieut. Cameron in traversing from east to west the African continent. Father Secchi and Mr. Bowdler Sharp were, at the same meeting, elected Corresponding Associates of the Academy.

The 'Centennial Map of Philadelphia and Vicinity' (Philadelphia, Baker, Davis & Co.) will prove useful to visitors of the Exhibition. It embraces the country for 136 miles round, and extends to New York, Washington, and other important cities. The map has been prepared by Mr. Bartholomew with his usual care, and is neatly engraved and well printed.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 3.—W. Spottiswoode, Treas. and V.P., in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On Formule of Verification in the Partition of Numbers,' by Mr. J. W. L. Glaisher, 'On the Development and Succession of the Poison Fangs of Snakes,' by Mr. C. S. Tomes, 'On a Mechanical Integrator having a New Kinematic Principle,' by Prof. J. Thomson, 'On an Instrument for Calculating ($\int \phi(x) \psi(x) dx$) the Integral of the Product of two given Functions,' 'Mechanical Integration of the Linear Differential Equations of the Second Order with variable Co-efficients,' and 'Mechanical Integration of the General Differential Equation of any Order with Variable Co-efficients,' by Sir W. Thomson.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Feb. 3.—F. Ouvry, Esq., President, in the chair.—In the unavoidable absence of his father, Sir G. G. Scott, Mr. G. G. Scott laid before the Society a detailed Report, as submitted to the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury, the object of which was to investigate the reasons, deduced from the architecture, the history, and the Ritual of Sarum, for placing the altar in the position which Sir G. G. Scott assigned to it—as will be seen from our last week's issue—instead of under the majesty or vesica, where Mr. Armfield and others considered it to have been placed. On the historical ground, Sir G. G. Scott produced a fair catena of authorities, reaching down to, and inclusive of, Leland, whose evidence appears all but decisive as to the site of the altar in his day. It seems incredible that Leland should have spoken of the lady chapel being at "the east end of the high altar," if so considerable a space as the presbytery, &c., had separated that altar from the lady chapel. On this passage Sir G. G. Scott did not apparently lay all the stress that he might fairly have claimed. The considerations to be drawn from the Ritual were gone into very fully, Mr. G. G. Scott, jun., being himself the author of this portion of the Report, and the balance of evidence seemed rather to incline, on this ground also, to his father's view. The fact is, that the vesica position of the altar rests mainly on the correlation which certainly would seem *a priori* to be expected between the floor and the roof. Can it be that the high altar was shifted after the decoration of the roof was executed? In this view some of the Fellows appeared disposed to acquiesce. At the close of Sir G. G. Scott's paper, Messrs. Armfield, G. Richmond, E. W. Godwin, France, Franks, and K. Watson took part in the

discussion, the balance of opinion being in favour of Sir G. G. Scott.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Feb. 2.—Mr. H. S. Cuming in the chair.—The chairman described a sword recently found on the site of the new Opera-house, and which was exhibited. Also a poniard from the Baily collection.—The Rev. S. M. Mayhew exhibited several Chinese objects made of rice.—Mr. Thairlwall, Mr. Brent, Mr. Brock, Mr. W. Huyshe, Mr. Cuming, and other Members exhibited a variety of Egyptian antiquities, consisting of sepulchral figures in blue glazed pottery.—Stone figures with inscriptions painted or incised, scarabæi, beads, ornamental emblems of the bat or Nilometer, pillows, amulets, the two fingers of the right hand inscribed, base of a sepulchral cone, a rare specimen of a bronze Horus, and other deities from the Egyptian pantheon, footboard of a mummy case *cartonnage*, a mummied leg of a child and head of a greyhound dog. The collection was described by Dr. Birch, whose remarks were listened to with interest. In the discussion which followed M. Naville of Geneva, Mr. Kerslake, Mr. Thairlwall, Mr. W. de Grey Birch, and Mr. Cuming took part.—Mr. W. de Grey Birch exhibited on behalf of the Rev. E. Ray, the matrix of the seal of the Hundred of Flaxwell, co. Lincoln, for labourers' passes, A.D. 1388, and an impression of the seal of Franciscus de Bellantibus, Bishop of Grossette, ob. A.D. 1417.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Feb. 4.—Sir S. Scott, Bart., V.P., in the chair.—A memoir by Mr. W. Matchwick was read, entitled 'Brief Notes on early British Remains on the North-east Coast of the Island of Anglesey.' These remains were discovered near the Glyn Farm, about ten miles from Bangor, and consisted of two double circles of boulder stones within about a hundred yards of each other, with a circumference of about fifty-six feet. A third double circle was also found on higher ground, near Lyn-y-Gongl, measuring about a hundred and thirty feet in circumference, with evident remains of an artificial mound in the centre. About a mile from the last-named circles, and at the back of the Glyn, is a cromlech in a somewhat ruined condition. None of these remains is indicated on the Ordnance map.—A memoir, 'On a Tabula honestæ Missionis, found at Bath, and some other neglected Britanno-Roman Inscriptions,' by Mr. W. T. Walkin, was read. The writer's chief object was to supply omissions in Prof. Hübnér's seventh volume of the 'Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum.' In the discussion which ensued, the value of Hübnér's great work was warmly acknowledged. It was especially remarked that the inscriptions on pottery were very widely scattered, and very difficult, sometimes impossible, to get at.—A promised memoir, by Mr. Burgess, upon recent archaeological discoveries in Warwickshire, with illustrations, was not forthcoming, on account of the author's illness.—Mr. Soden-Smith exhibited a gold signet-ring, with rebus of the name Peckham, found at Wrotham, Kent; and Mr. W. Huyshe brought two pieces of sixteenth-century embroidery.

LINNEAN.—Feb. 3.—Prof. G. J. Allman, President, in the chair.—Mr. W. Hillhouse, Prof. R. Lankester, Mr. D. Pigeon, and Mr. D. Robertson were elected Fellows.—Mr. A. Peckover exhibited a case of insects from Madagascar, obtained by Mr. Kingdon. Among these, Mr. Butler pointed out and made remarks on the scarce and remarkable *Actias Ida* of Felder's 'Reise der Novara'; the new hawk-moth *Diodo, sida*, sp., allied to a Congo species; also *D. fumosa*, Walker, the *Danaüs chrysippus*, L., and its mimic, *Diadema misippus*, L., likewise a homopterous genus, allied to *Coomoscorta* of Stål.—Mr. H. Trimen read a 'Note on *Bee Commersonii*, R. Br.' He observed that the supposition of Commerson having obtained the type in Magellan Straits is founded on an error; R. Brown regarded it as belonging to the Seychelles. Mr. C. Walter quite lately has discovered specimens growing on coral cliffs in the

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Duke of York's Island, which, through the Baron von Mueller of Melbourne, have been forwarded to this country for identification. The probability is that Comerson himself obtained his examples in 1768 from the same locality, its true habitat having been confounded, from the name "Praslin," attached to the original specimen, being given to widely different places.—Mr. B. Sharpe read a paper 'On the Geographical Distribution of the Vultures' (Vulturidae). These he divides into two sub-families, Vulturinae, with six genera, and Sarcophaginae, with four genera, the distinctive characters and geographical range of which were commented on. The author likewise sketched out the classification of the birds of prey, as proposed by him in recent publications.—A short paper, 'On New British Lichens,' by the Rev. W. A. Leighton, was taken as read: six new species are described and figured.—The Rev. J. M. Crombie made a few observations on two communications by him, viz., 'Lichens Capensis, an Enumeration of the Lichens Collected at the Cape of Good Hope, by the Rev. A. E. Eaton during the Venus Transit Expedition in 1874,'—'Lichens Kergueleni, an Enumeration of the Lichens Collected in Kerguelen Land, by the Rev. A. E. Eaton during the Venus Transit Expedition in 1874-5.'

ZOOLOGICAL.—Feb. 1.—G. R. Waterhouse, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary read extracts from a Report of a recent visit made by H.M.S. Peterel to the Galapagos Islands, referring to the tortoises met with in the different islands of the group. Mr. Selater exhibited and made remarks on an antler of a Rusa Deer, living in the Gardens of the Acclimatisation Society of Melbourne; and Mr. F. Selous, jun., on a series of horns of African rhinoceroses procured by himself in South-eastern Africa.—Papers and letters were read: by Prof. T. H. Huxley, on the position of the anterior nasal aperture in Lepidosaurs, which he showed to be strictly homologous with the position of these organs in other Vertebrates,—by Mr. A. H. Garrod, on the anatomy of *Chauna Derbiana*, and on the systematic position of the Screamers (Palamedeidae), in which he controverted Prof. Parker's collocation of this form with the Anseres, and showed that it should occupy an independent position with relations to the Struthionies, Gallinae, and Rallidae,—from Mr. F. J. Bell, on the myology of the limbs of *Moschus moschiferus*,—from Dr. T. S. Cobbold, on Entozoa, forming the third of a series of papers on this subject brought by him before the Society,—by Mr. H. Druce on a list of butterflies collected in Peru, with descriptions of new species: to these were added some notes on some of the species by Mr. E. Bartlett,—by Mr. A. G. Butler, on a small collection of butterflies received from the New Hebrides,—and by Mr. P. L. Selater and Mr. O. Salvin, on some new birds obtained by Mr. C. Buckley in Bolivia.

CHEMICAL.—Feb. 3.—Prof. Abel, President, in the chair.—Mr. W. Ackroyd read a paper 'On Metachromism, or Colour-changes,' in which he discussed the phenomena presented by certain chemical compounds which changed colour on being heated.—Mr. W. H. Perkin made a communication 'On the Formation of Anthrapurpurin,' which it appears is the product of the action of caustic alkali on anthraquinone-disulphuric acid; the supposition that alizarin is formed under these circumstances being incorrect. There were also papers 'On Maltose,' by Mr. C. O. Sullivan,—'On a simple form of Gas Regulator,' by Mr. T. Fletcher,—and 'On high Melting-points, with special reference to those of Metallic Salts,' by Mr. T. Carnelley, B.Sc.

PHILOLOGICAL.—Feb. 4.—The Rev. R. Morris, LL.D., President, in the chair.—Prof. Ingleson of Moscow was elected a Member.—A paper was read by Mr. H. Jenner, 'On the Traditional Relics of the Cornish Language in Mounts Bay,' giving the result of some investigations pursued with the help of the Rev. W. S. Lach Szymra,

vicar of Newlyn, in the villages of Newlyn and Mousehole, Penzance, in July, 1875. He gave the numerals up to twenty, about twenty words, and three short sentences, all of which had been obtained from persons of the fisher-class, as specimens of the old language handed down to them, and as such were distinct from the many Celtic words still in use among them. Mr. Jenner considered that these relics would prove of considerable value in determining the pronunciation of the language in its latest stage. Some valuable remarks were made by Mr. Westlake, of Zennor, Cornwall, on the Cornish words still in use; and another set of numerals, differing somewhat from those of Mounts Bay, was given by him. Prince L. L. Bonaparte exhibited the original MS. of the Cornish grammar and vocabulary of Gwavas and Tonkin, published by Pryce as *his own* in 1790.—A paper 'On French Genders' was read by Mr. D. P. Fry.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Feb. 8.—Mr. G. R. Stephenson, President, in the chair.—The paper read was 'On Carlingford Lough and Greenore,' by Mr. J. Barton.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Feb. 7.—The Duke of Northumberland, President, in the chair.—Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. T. Williams, Messrs. J. R. Adams, A. Brewin, E. De La Rue, C. Fletcher, T. Matthew Gisborne, M. Archer-Shee, jun., F. L. Smith, and A. B. Thorburn were elected Members.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Feb. 9.—Hon. D. Fortescue in the chair.—The paper read was 'On the Cultivation of Hardy Fruits,' by Mr. Shirley Hibberd.

PSYCHOLOGICAL.—Feb. 3.—Mr. Serjeant Cox, President, in the chair.—Mr. P. P. Blyth and Mr. H. Wedgwood were elected Members.—The Honorary Secretary reported his interview with Stokes, the witness in the recent murder-case. It was resolved to invite Stokes to attend the meeting of the Society on the 17th inst.—The President read a paper 'On Matter and Spirit,' defining those terms for use in the proceedings of the Society.—Mr. C. C. Hussey read a paper maintaining the existence of a soul in man.—Mr. Gordon read a paper supporting Prof. Tyndall.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. London Institution, 5.—'Unfermented Beverages—Tea, Coffee, Cocoa,' Prof. R. Bentley.
- Royal Academy, 8.—'Sculpture,' Mr. H. Weekes.
- British Architects, 8.—'Palace of Tirumala Naik, Madras,' Mr. R. F. Chisholm.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Iron and Steel Manufacture,' Lecture V., Mr. W. M. Williams (Cantor Lecture).
- Geographical, 8.—'Diary of the late Mr. Margary from Hankow to Tai-fu.'
- Tues. Royal Institution, 8.—'Classification of Vertebrate Animals,' Prof. A. H. Garrod.
- Statistical, 7.—'Municipal Government of Paris,' Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., M.P.; 'International Prison Statistics,' Dr. F. J. Mount.
- Civil Engineers, 8.—'Estimating the Illuminating Power of Coal Gas,' Mr. W. Sugg; 'Probable Errors of Levelling,' Mr. W. Airy.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Ostrich Farming and the Ostrich Feather Trade of South Africa,' Mr. T. B. Granville.
- Colonial Institute, 8.—'Adjourned Discussion on General Bisset's Paper, 'On South Africa and her Colonies.''
- Zoological, 8.—'Skull of *Æthiornathus* Birds,' Part II., Mr. W. K. Parker; 'New Order and some New Genera of Arachnida from Kerguelen Island,' Rev. O. P. Cambridge; 'Supplementary Notes on *Cereus Monoplocus*,' Sir V. Brooke.
- Wed. Meteorological, 7.—'Improvement in Aneroid Barometers,' Hon. R. Abercromby; 'Meteorology in India in Relation to Cholera,' Col. J. Puckle.
- Royal Academy, 8.—'Demonstrations,' Mr. J. Marshall.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'The Combustion of Gas, and its Application to Heating Purposes,' Mr. J. Wallace.
- British Archaeological Association, 8.—'Hippopotamus found in London,' Rev. S. M. Mayhew; 'Roughly Stones, Oxfordshire,' Mr. T. Morgan.
- Thurs. Royal Institution, 8.—'Chemistry of the Non-Metallic Elements,' Dr. J. H. Gladstone.
- London Institution, 7.—'Lecture, Prof. J. Ruskin.
- Chemical, 8.—'Some Points in the Analysis of Potable Waters,' Dr. Frankland.
- Royal Academy, 8.—'Sculpture,' Mr. H. Weekes.
- Luncheon, 8.—'Additional Observations on Ants,' Sir J. Lubbock; 'New Genus of Turnstone from Russia,' Mr. J. B. Eufour; 'Cæcal Bladders, and Diverticula from the Peritoneal Cavity in Chelonia,' Dr. J. Anderson.
- Royal, 8.—'Psychological, 9.—'Communications of Psychological Facts and Phenomena,' 'Psychology of the Aryans,' Mr. G. M. Tazewell; 'Instinct in Man and Animals,' Mr. G. S. Wate; Statement by Stokes.
- Antiquaries, 8.—'Drainage of the Level of Hatfield Chase, temp. Car. I., Mr. E. Peacock; 'Deeds and seals Relating to the Isle of Wight,' Rev. E. Estcourt.
- Fri. Geological, 1.—'Anniversary.
- United Service Institution, 3.—'How best to keep up and improve the Seamen of the Country,' Mr. T. Brassey.
- Royal Academy, 8.—'Demonstrations,' Mr. J. Marshall.
- Philological, 8.—'Dialect of West Somerset,' Mr. F. T. Elworthy.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'The Suez Canal,' Mr. C. Magniac.
- Royal Institution, 9.—'Action of Light on Selenium,' Dr. C. W. Siemens.
- Sat. Royal Institution, 3.—'The Vegetable Kingdom: the Boundaries and Connections of its Larger Groups,' Mr. W. T. Thwaites Dyar.

Science Gossip.

MR. FLOWER, in his capacity of Hunterian Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons, will deliver a course of nine lectures, three a week, commencing on Monday next, on the relation of extinct to existing Mammalia, with special reference to the Derivative hypothesis. This subject has again been rendered particularly interesting within the last few years, by the discoveries made in central North America of remains of gigantic creatures, which cannot be definitely referred to any existing order of mammals, and to these animals Prof. Flower will devote special attention. The exact value of the paleontological facts respecting the other higher mammalian orders will be fully demonstrated, together with their precise bearing on the theory of evolution.

M. LEVERRIER was not present at the meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society last night, but talks of coming later in the year.

As the sun never sets on the British Empire, some part of it is pretty sure to have a view of every considerable solar eclipse. Of the total eclipse, however, of September 17-18, this year, our fellow-subjects of the Fiji Islands alone will see anything like the totality; and the only land on which it seems that it will be absolutely total is the small island, near the Navigator group, called Savage Island (about thirty miles in circumference, discovered by Capt. Cook in 1774, and so named by him from the disposition of the inhabitants). Even there the totality will be less than one minute in duration. On the Fiji Islands about 0.9 of the sun's diameter will be obscured; at Auckland, New Zealand, about 0.5; and somewhat less on the eastern shore of Australia.

THE two last discovered small planets, Nos. 158 and 159, *enfants trouvés* of Herr V. Knorre and M. Paul Henry, on the 4th and 26th of January respectively, have received the names of Koronis and Emilia. The latter was discovered so long after its opposition, that it is extremely desirable to obtain more observations of it soon, for the calculation of its orbit before it passes out of view; but, the planet being very faint (below the twelfth magnitude), these can only be made with the aid of very powerful telescopes.

MR. CROOKES's remarkable experiments are naturally attracting much attention. Dr. F. Neesen and M. Poggendorf have articles upon the "Radiometer" in *Poggendorf's Annalen*; the conclusion arrived at being, that the experiments have conducted to the realization of an apparatus, thermoelectric in character, possessing extraordinary sensibility with respect to the heat-rays.

M. ALPHONSE DE CANDOLLE has a paper in the *Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles*, 'Sur les Causes de l'inégale Distribution des Plantes rares dans la Chaîne des Alpes.' This appears as an answer to Mr. J. Ball's note—"It is a matter of curious inquiry to ascertain why certain districts of the Alps possess a far more varied vegetation than others."

SOME notice should be taken of the death of Mr. N. T. Wetherell, a member of the old "London Clay Club," which took place at Highgate, on the 22nd of December, 1875. Mr. Wetherell, for many years, devoted his attention to the study of the fossils of the London clay, and he made a careful collection of the fossils from the glacial-drift deposits of Finchley and Muswell Hill. The London clay fossils are preserved in the British Museum, and those from the glacial drift in the Museum of Practical Geology. Mr. Wetherell was one of the earliest members of the Geological Society. He communicated several papers to the *Proceedings and Transactions*; others will be found in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, and in the *Geological Magazine*. He was seventy-five years of age when he died.

FINE ARTS

The SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The FOURTEENTH WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES IS NOW OPEN. 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s. ALFRED D. PRIPP, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The TENTH WINTER EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.—Gallery, 55, Pall Mall. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

DUDLEY GALLERY, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS. The TWELFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS OPEN DAILY from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. ROBERT F. McNAIR, Sec.

DORÉ'S GREAT PICTURE OF 'CHRIST LEAVING THE PRETORIUM,' with 'Dream of Pilate's Wife,' 'The Night of the Crucifixion,' 'La Vigne,' 'Christian Martyrs,' 'Crusaders,' &c., at the DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street. Ten to Six.—1s.

NOTES FROM ROME.

February 5, 1876.

THE "laterculus militaris" discovered about a month ago in the catacombs of Cyriaca, at the cemetery of S. Lorenzo fuori le Mura (where it had been employed as a cover to an altar-tomb, with the pagan inscription turned inside, and the Christian epitaph engraved on the outside), contains a list of about one hundred and fifty names of soldiers belonging to the twelfth and fourteenth *cohortes urbanae*. Each individual has his *prænomen*, *nomen*, *cognomen*, carefully indicated, together with the name of his father, his tribe, and country. The soldiers are grouped by companies, indicated by the name of their captain, or *centurio*, such as "the company of Marcellus" or "the company of Tranquillinus," &c., with the consular date of the year in which Marcellus or Tranquillinus was in command of that company.

Such military documents, however commonly found, especially in the neighbourhood of the Prætorian Camp, are extremely valuable, not only from a chronological point of view, but for the information they convey about the most intimate details of the organization of the forces garrisoned in Rome. The "laterculi" were engraved to record the names of those soldiers who had contributed with their own money for the erection of a monument of any kind in honour of their gods or their emperors. Not many days ago a marble cippus was dug up in the new Piazza Manfredo Fanti, which had been consecrated to the unknown god, Apollo Cicanus, by a few prætorians from a Thracian village, called Statuæ. It is to be regretted that the laterculus recently found at S. Lorenzo is not complete enough to give us any information about the monument raised at the cost of so large a number of men; for another part of the same list, engraved on a slab of the same marble and size, and containing many more names, was found, just a century ago, in the same place. The slab is preserved in the Vatican Museum. Not far from this corner of the Catacombs of Cyriaca a tomb was laid open, which seems to have belonged to a lady of distinction. A gold necklace and a couple of ear-rings with opal stones were picked up in the earth filling the place. The walls of the room, or cubiculum, had a thick coating of plaster, on which relatives or friends of the deceased buried in the same room had written records of their affection and devotion, such as "Gaius, live in Christ with Procula; Simplicius, live in Christ."

The Villa Polombara, the retreat of Queen Christine of Sweden and of the Counts of Anguillara, when engaged in the follies of necromancy, and the search for the philosopher's stone and perpetual motion, has now disappeared to give room to new quarters of the town. More solid fame belongs to these grounds from the discovery which took place, about a century ago, of the celebrated discobolus of *Myro*, the best ornament of the "Massimo Palace,"—a discovery equalled, if not surpassed, by that of seven statues, of great beauty and in a wonderful state of preservation, found in the same spot on Christmas-eve, 1874. The accidental discovery of a female marble head attracted the attention of the "Archæological Commission," and a few men had been set to work to see whether the body of the statue was not lying near the head. After some hours' work, the

body was found, together with the beautiful Esquiline Venus, two statues of Tritons, painted and gilded, a colossal head of Commodus, represented as Hercules, two statues of muses, a beautiful torso of female Bacchus, two unknown busts of Pentelic marble, and a large set of fragments, legs, arms, torsos, &c., &c. One question remained to be ascertained—the history and name of the building which had been ornamented with such a collection of statues. Regular excavations were begun in November last, under the care of Signor Lanciani, which led to the discovery of a portico 290 feet long, ornamented with a single row of fluted columns of *giallo antico*, resting on pedestals of gilt plaster. The floor was inlaid with marbles in the most graceful designs, in which the rarest specimens of Oriental alabaster were set. The pavement has actually been removed into the new cabinet of medals in the Capitol. At the south end of the portico, viz. at the end opposite where the statues had been found, several bath-rooms were laid bare, the fragments of which contained most rare specimens of precious marbles. The first room (which had been used as a burial-place during the darkest period of the Middle Ages) contained the key of the enigma. Under a marble seat or step, running along three sides of the room, a lead water-pipe was found, containing the following inscriptions repeated five times:—"STATIONIS PROPRIÆ PRIVATÆ D N ALEXANDRI AVG." As there is no doubt that the "Horti Lamiani," where Caligula received the Jewish legation from Alexandria, stood in this region, so it seems that the place, owned in succession by Roman emperors, fell at last into the hands of Alexander Severus, who restored it from the very foundations, and ornamented it in the rich tasteless way of the third century. The room next to the one described has the pavement composed of slabs of *occhio di pavone*, the value of which has been estimated at 150,000*l*. On this floor a statue of a fawn was lying, bearing a basket of grapes on the left shoulder, as well as a terra-cotta lamp representing the helmet of a gladiator, with bas-reliefs allusive to the bloody games of the amphitheatre.

The works for the opening of the Via Nazionale, the thoroughfare which is to connect the centre of the town at Piazza di Venezia with the railway station, are carried on in three different points, viz., in the Rospigliosi Gardens, in the Via Magnanapoli, and in the Villa Aldobrandini. In each of these places something important has been found, either in the way of Roman constructions or works of art. On the slope of the Quirinal, occupied by the Rospigliosi Gardens, some noble halls have appeared, which formed part of the baths of Constantine. The pavement of one of these was inlaid with slabs of *giallo verde* and *rosso antico*, on which part of a column of African marble was lying, six feet long and three feet in diameter. Underneath the constructions of Constantine, remains have been found of private houses, partially destroyed by that emperor to make room for his baths. Every one knows that the same state of things characterizes the baths both of Titus and Caracalla, the former having been built over the golden house of Nero, a portion of which still exists in a perfect state of preservation, the latter over a private house, attributed, without sufficient ground, to Asinius Pollio, which was excavated several years ago by the late Cav. Guidi. No less remarkable is the fact that the foundation walls of the baths of Constantine are built with materials taken from pre-existing edifices, such as shafts of columns, broken capitals, and even torsos of statues. Previously to the excavations of the Esquiline, whenever such walls were found, the outcry was raised against the barbarism of the early Christians, who were depicted as gathering from all parts of the city productions of classic art, either in marble to turn into lime, or in bronze to melt into church utensils, or, in general, to use for building materials. These excavations have shown that the custom of building statues into walls, however impossible it may seem, is a custom which dates back at least to the time of Diocletian. In January, 1874, some baths were discovered at

the south-west corner of the Villa Polombara, opposite the church of "SS. Pietro and Marcellino," built under Diocletian, as shown by hundreds of brick stamps of his age. The works for the building of the Piazza Dante having necessitated the destruction of even the foundations of these baths, the following works of art were found in the foundations themselves:—a statue of Ceres, another of Venus Anadyomene, one of Esculapius, one of a young Camillus, gilded and painted; a graceful group of a boy playing with a lion; three heads of divinities; fifty-seven fragments of various statues, and, last of all, that magnificent fountain of Greek workmanship, 7 feet in diameter, which has been exposed for the last two years in the ground floor of the Capitoline Museum.

I cannot yet state anything definitely about the beautiful ruins found in the "Villa Aldobrandini," for their name, their destination, is still a mystery to the topographers. I shall simply mention as a matter of curiosity the discovery of a common wine *amphora* of terra cotta, which had been used as a receptacle for a human skeleton of mature age. As the orifice of the jar was simply three inches in diameter, the different parts of the body, and especially the largest bones, had been cut, and forced through the opening. This strange process had certainly some connexion with sorcery, or rather with the superstitions of the lower classes in the fifth and sixth centuries; for I have gathered myself among the bones one of those thin, rolled sheets of lead, containing a formula of imprecation on a matter of love. The document, written in Greek, has not yet been deciphered, and probably will not be, owing to the corrosion of the lead, but there is scarcely any doubt of its design. This reminds me of the discovery related by Count Caylus—a discovery of the same nature, but on a gigantic scale. About the middle of the last century, he says, under the walls of the Pincio, facing the Villa Borghese, a subterranean corridor was found, containing some thousand *amphore*, still fixed in the earth. In each was the most strange collection of objects—human bones mixed with those of horses, oxen, and monkeys, teeth, lizards, coils of serpents, and small hands of wax. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given of this discovery, and I hope that the recent instance of the same kind will turn the attention of the archæologist towards the study of this very peculiar ancient custom. R. L.

SALES.

MESSES. CHRISTIE, MANSON & WOODS sold, for pounds, on the 5th inst., the following works of art. Pictures: B. W. Leader, Moorland, 10*l*.—L. Escosura, Interior with Ladies, Sportsmen, and Dogs, 115*l*.—L. Perrault, The Refugees, 94*l*. The Sisters, 84*l*. Bo-Peep, 246*l*. The Baby Brother, 262*l*. Forgiveness, 241*l*.—J. Webb, Castle Hill and Goscar Rock, Tenby, 95*l*. The property of J. Baines, Esq., deceased, of Leicester: T. S. Cooper, A Sunny Landscape, 246*l*.—E. Hayes, Dublin Bay, 173*l*.—W. Shayer, A Keeper, on a Grey Shooting-Pony, with Dogs, 117*l*. Another property: J. Herring, Race-Horses, 86*l*. The Hunting Stud, 94*l*. Teams of Cart-Horses Baiting, 140*l*.—W. Gale, Eastern Spring-Time, 74*l*.—W. C. T. Dobson, Stragglers, 89*l*.—F. R. Lee, Devonshire Scenery, 157*l*.—W. Müller, Gillingham, 315*l*.—J. Webb, Dover, 105*l*.—T. S. Cooper, A Landscape and Cattle, 488*l*.—R. Ansell, Deer-Stalking, 24*l*. Drawings: W. Hunt, Interior of a Cottage, with a Girl Asleep, 115*l*.—D. Maclise, The Spirit of Chivalry, 98*l*.—J. D. Harding, The Bay of Salerno, 162*l*.—J. Phillip and T. Creswick, A Landscape, with Cattle, 94*l*.—J. Pettie, Rejected Addresses, 141*l*.—D. Cox, An Old Turret, 69*l*. Driving the Geese, 136*l*.—J. E. Millais, The Brunette, 55*l*.—P. F. Poole, Crossing the Stream, 75*l*.—J. Ward, The Waggoner, 35*l*.—C. Troyon, A River Scene, with Cows, 34*l*.—J. Holland, At Hampton Court, 136*l*.—C. R. Leslie, Dulcinea del Toboso, 53*l*. The property of W. E. J. Roffey, Esq. Pictures: J. Hayllar, "The Queen, God bless her!" 105*l*.—E. C. Barnes, The Scarlet Letter, 147*l*.

The same auctioneers sold, for pounds, on the

7th inst., the following works. Drawings: S. Prout, Lauffenberg, 31; Braubach, 31.—G. Cattermole, View of a Castle, 37; Entrance to a Castle, 38.—D. Cox, Haddon Hall, 25; Furness Abbey, 38.—P. De Wint, Old Cottages, 26. Pictures: Caneletti, The Churches of SS. John and Paul, Venice, 257; The Grand Canal, Venice, 60. Another property. Drawings: T. L. Rowbotham, Patterdale, 35. Pictures: F. D. Hardy, "Making Home snug," 60.—E. H. Hayes, A Calm off the Mumbles, 52.

Fine-Art Gossip.

An exhibition of "Selected Water-Colour Drawings of Deceased and Living Artists" has been formed at Messrs. Agnew & Son's gallery, Waterloo Place. The private view takes place to-day; the gallery will be opened to the public on Monday next.

We are glad to hear that the exhibition of the pictures and drawings by F. Walker, in the gallery liberally lent by Mr. Deschamps, 168, New Bond Street, has proved a great success, the room having been frequently crowded to excess. The exhibition closes to-day (Saturday).

The annual meeting of the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts was well attended in the Council Room of the Royal Institution. It was stated that the Academy continues to be a success.

The Report of the Fine Arts Committee of the Liverpool Corporation on the fifth autumn exhibition states that more than 41,000 persons visited the galleries, besides 18,000 members of school establishments, admitted gratuitously: 345 works of art were sold for 12,319*l*. The visits were more than 15,000 in excess of those of last year. The attendance of "the industrial classes" during the evenings of the last week of the exhibition was so great that the doors had to be closed, and the people admitted in relays. Nearly 3,000*l*. more was received by sales than last year produced. A picture, by Mr. Armitage, styled 'Julian, the Apostate, Presiding at a Conference of Sectarians,' which many will remember to have seen at the Royal Academy Exhibition, was given by Mr. Bennett for the "Walker Art Gallery."

A RECENT Report of the condition and progress of the British Section of the Philadelphia Exhibition has been issued, and gives a hopeful account. The Fine Art Building, it is said, is likely to be in "a completed form" at any required date, the structure having been covered over before the winter, so that no apprehensions of damp need be entertained. The offices, barracks, and workmen's quarters are described as likely to remind "travelled" Americans of "many quaint buildings in the Old Country." The furniture and interior decorations of these constructions have been supplied "in the most handsome manner." This is a phrase we cannot understand, and feel sure that it reproduces the sound, but not the sense, of a semi-vulgar idiom of Cockney use—by "a number of our principal manufacturers." An Old-World air, it is expected, will be imparted by these endeavours "to convey an excellent idea of the English decorative art of the present day." The strength of the British contributions will, it is said, be in carpets, woollens, silks, printing, paper-making, scientific instruments, firearms, furniture, needles, linen, glass, china, "art" metal-work, machinery, tools, sewing-machines, armour-plates, engineering models, Indian productions. The Fine Art Section is represented by a selection of members of the Royal Academy and other artists, collectors, cognoscenti, and antiquaries. The Queen has promised to lend some pictures, but the list of them included in the Report is not encouraging. It is to be hoped, however, that more works of the quality of Zoffany's 'Royal Academicians' and West's 'Death of Wolfe' will be found at Philadelphia. The Royal Academy contributes pictures from among the diploma works; but let not "untravellers" Americans judge our R.A.s by these works. On the whole, it cannot be doubted that great progress

has been made towards the collecting of a very respectable exhibition. It cannot but strike all who read this document that not a word of credit is given to those officials who have brought things at Philadelphia into this promising state. We presume that all the arrangements, preparations, and details noticed in this official statement were completed, or on the eve of completion, when Mr. P. Cunliffe Owen resigned the post of Executive Commissioner at Philadelphia, which he had held from the first. It certainly would have been a graceful act if Mr. Owen's successors, when stepping into his shoes, had acknowledged the extent of his labours and the value of his services.

THE Syndicate of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, have reported to the Senate of the University that, owing to the death of the late Curator, it is desirable to reorganize the establishment; and they recommend the appointment, as Director, of a person of special education and attainments to the charge of the Museum, to draw up inventories and catalogues; competent to communicate with foreign authorities and visitors; to make inquiries and give advice as to additions to the Museum, whether acquired by purchase or offered as gifts. The appointment to be made by a board of electors, comprising the Syndicate, the Disney Professor of Archaeology, and the Slade Professor, any one of whom being a candidate his vote not to be received; the election to be by an absolute majority of the voters present at the election: the Vice-Chancellor to give public notice of the date of the election. The stipend of the Director to be 300*l*. a year. His duties are to be to take charge of the pictures, sculptures, casts, books, engravings, arms, coins, gems, and other objects in the collections; to arrange the same, to superintend the subordinate officers, to carry out the rules laid down, and to assist students. The attendance required from the Director to be not less than three hours each day of not less than 150 week-days in term-time, and not less than thirty week-days during each long vacation. It is also recommended to appoint a Principal Attendant, or Curator, subordinate to the Director, at a somewhat lower salary than that of the late Curator.

M. G. DREYFUS has offered to the Louvre a collection of medals, plaques for suspension, i.e. enseignes, and seals, Italian, of the end of the fifteenth century. These objects are exposed in the Salle des Bronzes.

THE first season of the Art Criticism meetings, held at 48, Great Marlborough Street, and intended to afford opportunity for making practical suggestions on the colour, effect, composition, &c., of works in progress for exhibition, has come to a close. Mr. Fisk, of University College, has acted as examining visitor. A large number of pictures and drawings were submitted to criticism, and in many cases exhibited at the following meeting, when the success of the scheme was proved by the improvement shown in the works. These meetings should be repeated, for it is exactly this practical and candid criticism by an artist which is of real value to students of all grades.

At a meeting held in Carmarthen it has been decided to set on foot a subscription for the restoration of the west front of St. David's Cathedral, as a memorial of the late Bishop Thirlwall. Eight hundred pounds was subscribed on the occasion. As the west front is a wonderful example of Nash's confusion of Gothic architecture, no one need regret that it is proposed to employ Sir G. Scott in this work. The present Bishop of St. David's is, as most readers know, joint author with Mr. Freeman of a capital history of the cathedral, a model book of its kind.

THE tower of Bristol Cathedral, which has been for many years supported by shores, is to be taken down and rebuilt. Mr. Street will doubtless perform this work, after building the nave of the cathedral, which is now in hand and rising on the ground-plan of the fourteenth century, which is now at last being carried into effect.

MUSIC

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY. Exeter Hall.—Conductor, Sir Michael Costa.—FRIDAY, Feb. 25, at 7.30, Beethoven's MASS in C and "MOUNT OF OLIVES." Madame Sherrington, Miss Julia Elton, Mr. Henry Gay, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Organist, Mr. Willing.—Tickets, 5*s*. and 10*s*. 6*d*.

Mr. WALTER BACH'S TWELFTH ANNUAL CONCERT. St. James's Hall, THURSDAY EVENING, Feb. 24, at half-past eight o'clock.—"THE LEGEND OF ST. ELIZABETH," by Franz Liszt. First Performance in English. Choir of 175 voices; Full Orchestra of 70 performers. Vocalists: Madame Ormond, Mr. Thurlby Beaumont, Mr. E. Wharton, and Signor Federici. Organ, Mr. Rosa. Principal Violin, Mr. Deichmann. Conductor, Mr. Walter Bach.—Stalls, 10*s*. 6*d*; Reserved Seats, 5*s*; Balcony, 2*s*; Admission, 1*s*.—Stanley Lucas, Weber & Co. 54, New Bond Street; usual Agents; and Austin's Ticket-Office, St. James's Hall.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

THE Committee of the Sacred Harmonic Society have adopted a judicious course in devoting an evening to a selection from those oratorios of Handel which, if given in their entirety, entail a heavy financial loss; and, indeed, the books of many of these works are so absurd and dull that it is much better to perform some prominent pieces in a detached form. Experience has shown that the day devoted to the Handelian miscellaneous selection, secular as well as sacred, is usually highly successful at the Crystal Palace Triennial Festivals. The programme in Exeter Hall, on the 4th, executed under the able direction of M. Sainton, attracted an audience who filled the vast hall, and the enthusiasm of the hearers led them to violate the ordinary rule of abstinence from applause. The choral gems were the "How excellent Thy Name" and "Envy," from 'Saul'; the "Gird on thy sword" and "When His loud voice," from 'Jephthah'; and the "Glory to God," from 'Joshua.' Added to these colossal choruses came, as the winding up of the concert, Handel's anthem, "Zadok, the priest," one of the four Coronation Anthems composed for King George the Second and Queen Caroline, and performed on the 11th of October, 1727. This magnificent Handelian scheme was opened with the fine overture to the 'Occasional Oratorio' of 1746. The solos to relieve the choralists were the air from 'Saul,' "O Lord, whose mercies numberless," sung by Miss J. Elton; the grand scena, "Deeper and deeper still," with the air, "Waft her Angels," given by Mr. Vernon Rigby; the soprano air, "Farewell ye limpid springs," from 'Jephthah,' sung by Madame Nouver; and the recitative, "Tis well," and the solo to the "Glory to God," from 'Joshua,' by Mr. Pearson. The four artists in their respective tasks, and the choralists, were so successful that it is to be regretted that additional specimens of the genius of the composer had not been chosen, instead of the 'Lauda Sion' of Mendelssohn, written for a Roman Catholic service on the festival of Corpus Christi at Liège in 1846, and an English adaptation of which, by the late Mr. Bartholomew, was written at the composer's request, in order that the work when executed here might be free from the doctrinal points of the Latin text. The 'Praise Jehovah' is by no means one of Mendelssohn's best productions: it was written to order, and an occasional composition is in general more laboured than inspired. How could the choruses stand against the Handelian thunder, indeed, and, as the Coronation Anthem ended the programme, the cantata was between two fires: the quatuor of singers were Madame Nouver, Miss J. Elton, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. O. Christian. Preceding 'Praise Jehovah' was the 'Reformation' symphony of Mendelssohn. The religious character of this symphony is based on the solemn tones of the opening Andante in D major, and on the Introduction of Luther's hymn, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott," in the fifth movement, variations of the chorale being interwoven in the *allegro vivace*, No. 6, but it is not treated so skillfully and powerfully as in the 'Huguenots.' The other portions of the symphony are essentially as secular as any of the other orchestral pieces of Mendelssohn. It has always been a puzzle to know what relation the third movement, marked *allegro vivace*, in three-four time, but which is a veritable Scherzo with its Trio, has to the 'Reformation.' The composer regarded the work as a failure, and when the question of

its publication was raised by his executors, his brother referred the decision to Moscheles, Ferdinand David, Hauptmann, and Herr Ries, who were unanimous for its suppression. Germany has confirmed their opinion; but here the symphony has taken a certain hold of the public, although it is not nearly so popular as the 'Italian' and 'Scotch' symphonies. Its title secured its execution at the Hereford Festival of 1873, and advantage has been taken of this precedent to include it in the *répertoire* of the Sacred Harmonic Society. Beethoven's Mass in c, and his oratorio, 'The Mount of Olives,' will form the programme of the next concert, on the 25th inst.

CONCERTS.

A VEXED question with professors and amateurs here, a question which has occasioned an amount of acrimonious controversy that quite puzzles musicians on the Continent, is—what amount of licence is to be permitted in the writing of additional accompaniments, and in modifying the scores of the old masters. On the one hand, it is maintained that the progress made in the construction of modern instruments, the elevation of the pitch, and the novel arrangement of vocal parts render additions and changes a matter of necessity, and that, if these were not made, old compositions would be disused; and, on the other hand, the adversaries of alteration contend that the score of a master is immutable, and should under no pretext be interfered with. This cry of "The score, the whole score, and nothing but the score," was disposed of by Mozart in his fresh instrumentation to the thin orchestral parts of Handel in the 'Messiah.' The example set by the immortal composer of 'Don Juan' has been followed by other very eminent musicians. It need scarcely be said that the transcription of the works of Bach for the harpsichord and organ has been naturally caused by the use of the modern grand pianoforte and by the invention of so many new stops for the organ. Despite the purists, common sense has prevailed, and the general body of artists and amateurs have accepted novel adaptations and arrangements to meet modern appliances. Only recently, however, a violent outcry was raised, because a professor had thought proper to choose one of Handel's 'Six Concertos for the Harpsichord or Organ,' arrange it for the piano, score it for the full band, and compose cadenzas according to the custom in the playing of concertos. The delinquent was, of course, a foreigner,—that was quite enough to provoke a virulent attack; but what M. Mortier de Fontaine did at Sydenham on the 27th of November, 1875, has been utterly eclipsed by Mr. Ebenezer Prout, an English organist, on the 5th of February, 1876. He has taken one of the two Chandos, 'Te Deums,'—that in a flat,—has "rearranged" the vocal parts, and made additions to the orchestral ones to the extent of "slightly modifying" the trumpet part. As we have not Handel's original score before us, which is in the possession of the German Handel Society, it is impossible to say whether the composer's intentions have been conformed to, and whether Mr. Prout is entitled to the merit of having meddled with Handel without muddling. For all we know the adapter or re-scorer may have shown the "care, judgment, taste, ability, and reverence" claimed for him; but was it consistent on the part of Mr. Prout, after his published denunciation of M. Mortier de Fontaine, to follow in the foreigner's wake, and re-arrange Handel? The latter, at all events, confined his additions to orchestration; but Mr. Prout has actually ventured to re-arrange the vocal parts of Handel, who wrote so splendidly for the voice. The remaining pieces in the programme were Beethoven's 'Pastoral Symphony,' Prof. Oakeley's 'Edinburgh Festival March,' and Herr Lachner's Introduction and Fugue from Suite No. 6 in c. The vocalists were Mesdames Blanche Cole and Patey.

Schubert's Pianoforte Sonata in c minor, and Handel's Sonata in c major, for piano and violoncello, were the two novelties in the programme of the Monday Popular Concerts of the 7th inst.

Mdlle. Krebs was pianist, and Signor Piatti violoncellist. Schubert's is Beethovenish in form as well as in idea in many portions, and the *adagio* is the most sympathetic movement. Handel's sonata, written for the viol da gamba and cembalo originally, was arranged for piano and violoncello by Herr Grützmacher, a famous violoncellist. The writer of the analytical book states that "none of the marks of expression indicated by Herr Grützmacher is reproduced in this cursory analysis, as none of them is Handel's own. It is curious that such matters cannot be left to the judgment, taste, and feeling of the executive artists themselves, instead of being dictated, as is too much the fashion now-a-days, by special individuals." We quite agree with the analyst; the *Athenæum* has always contended for the right of artists to a free and independent interpretation, just as the conductor has the privilege of reading a score, and having it executed according to his views of a composer's intentions. When Mdlle. Krebs is told that she introduces "no new readings" in Bach or Beethoven, a most clumsy compliment is paid to her, for it assumes that she plays like a machine, after the mode she has been taught. A truly great pianist must have an original conception of a sonata or concerto, and have the will to carry out the reading. To say that there is a settled rule for the interpretation of the old masters is an absurdity. If Bach had lived to play his fugues on an Erard or Broadwood, his times would have varied from those he used for the harpsichord. There is no more value in a traditional theory for the execution of compositions for the pianoforte than for the reading of Shakespeare. The creative faculty should exist in the executant as well as in the actor.

Musical Gossip.

M. VICTOR SCHOELCHER, the author of the 'Life of Handel,' calls our attention to a passage in a notice, which affects to supply an analysis of Handel's oratorio, 'Esther.' The writer of this notice ascribes to M. Schoelcher a statement for which Pope is responsible. Pope never denied the assertion which attributed the libretto of 'Esther' to Gay, whereas M. Schoelcher, in page 59, distinctly states that the poem of 'Esther,' in which many of the choruses are translated from Racine's play, was written by Humphreys, under Handel's direction. M. Schoelcher considers that it is not justifiable in the writer of the analysis of 'Esther,' who has so freely made use of the biography for his facts, to call the 'Life of Handel' "loose and rambling." M. Schoelcher need not be sensitive about this criticism of his valuable volume; every professor and amateur knows that the distinguished author, when in exile here, expended nearly 2,000*l.* in the purchase of the MSS. scores of Handel, and the copies of them made by Smith; that he ransacked our public libraries, and consulted more than a hundred works, besides examining the collections of the original MSS. at Buckingham Palace and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and the scores copied by Smith, now in the possession of H. Barrett Lennard, Esq. M. Schoelcher, who is now a Senator, has collected valuable instruments of all countries, and he recently presented them to the Paris Conservatoire. The collection of the scores used by Handel when conducting M. Schoelcher sold to the Handel Society in Germany, and Dr. Chrystander has turned to good account M. Schoelcher's Life, the "loose and rambling" style of which has not prevented its becoming a standard book for reference and for quotation, although the debt is not always duly acknowledged.

A NEW Intermezzo and Scherzo, by Mr. Henry Gadsby, will be produced at this afternoon's Crystal Palace concert.

THE Duke of Edinburgh has accepted the Presidency of the Musical Union, in place of the late Duke of Leinster. The late Prince Consort was patron, and the late Duke of Cambridge was President of the institution, the thirty-third season

of which, under the direction of Prof. Ella, the founder, will be commenced on the 25th of April.

MR. KUHE'S Brighton Musical Festival will begin with an evening concert next Tuesday. On the Wednesday morning Sir Jules Benedict will conduct his overture, the 'Minnesinger.' On Thursday evening, Mr. J. F. Barnett will direct the first performance of his new sacred cantata, 'The Good Shepherd.' On the Saturday morning, Sir Michael Costa's oratorio, 'Eli,' will be given, under the direction of the composer, if sufficiently recovered. Two other novelties are promised, besides 'The Good Shepherd,' a festival overture, by Mr. Osborne, the pianist, on the 23rd, and a new Gavotte on the 22nd, by Mr. A. B. Allen. The festival will end on the 28th, four morning concerts and six evening ones being included in the programme.

A CORRESPONDENT writes, with reference to our late remarks on the musical degrees of Oxford and Cambridge:—"One of the many absurd facts connected with these most absurd degrees is that, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two resident organists, not a single future candidate for the Mus. Bac. or Mus. Doc. is ever present at the terminal professorial lectures. A would-be Mus. Bac. must submit 'for the approval of the examiners a piece of music in five-part harmony with an accompaniment for at least five stringed instruments; together with a written assurance that the whole of this piece of music is of his own composition.' A more innocent contrivance than the latter part of this regulation can hardly be conceived. Would it not be to the common advantage of the Universities and of Music to suppress the Faculty altogether?"

THE first concert this season of Mr. Henry Leslie's Choir will take place on the 17th inst.

MISS FLORENCE MAX, the pianist, at her third and last recital, on the 9th inst., played works by Scarlatti, Gluck, Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin, Sterndale Bennett, and Herr Brahms.

A TRIAL has taken place of the acoustical properties of the new concert hall which has been added to the old building in Tenterden Street, so long occupied by the Royal Academy of Music. It is to be hoped that by the purchase of the adjoining house additional space may be obtained, and a chapel and a theatre added, for the practice of the pupils in sacred music and in the lyric drama. Similar accommodation ought to be provided at the National Training School of Music at Kensington.

At a sale of Cremona violins by Messrs. Foster, a collection formed by the late Mr. John Thorneley, of Preston, Lancashire, twenty-six instruments and three bows fetched the sum of 1,197*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, the highest being to an Antonius Stradivarius, of 1694, 117*l.* 12*s.*; a Nicolaus Amati, of 1691, 115*l.* 10*s.*; another N. Amati, 120*l.* 15*s.*; and a Joseph Guarnerius, 75*l.* 12*s.* Dr. Stone's process for improving a violin which cost 1*s.* 9*d.* does not seem as yet to have affected the prices for the fiddles of the old masters.

HERR MAYERBERGER'S new opera, 'Melusina,' at the Presburg Opera-house, of which he is the Capellmeister, has been well received. Herr Goldschmidt, of Vienna, has an opera in rehearsal at Berlin, called 'The Seven Capital Sins.' Herr Raff's new symphony, No. 1, called 'Alpensinfonie,' has been produced with the greatest success at Wiesbaden. Each movement has a descriptive title of mountain scenery and incidents. Herr Stauffer's new opera, 'Angelo, or the Vision,' has succeeded at Zurich. At the Leipzig Gewandhaus concert, on the 3rd inst., Herr Rubinstein's oratorio, 'Paradise Lost,' was executed, under his direction, with the greatest success. He played one of his concertos at a previous concert. The accounts published here of the state of his eyes are exaggerated. The new opera, by Mr. Henry Litolf, 'La Mandragore,' the libretto by M. Brévil, has been produced by M. Humbert, at the Théâtre des Fantaisies-Parisiennes in Brussels, with great favour. The book is based on the 'Joseph

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Balsamo, of Alexandre Dumas, but the adapter has not been happy in the treatment thereof. As regards the music, our English composer is at his best.

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

HAYMARKET.—'Anne Boleyn,' an Historical Play, in Five Acts. By Tom Taylor.

AFTER the attempt of the Laureate to give dramatic expression to the hysterical ecstasies of Mary Tudor comes Mr. Taylor's effort to dignify and idealize the love fancies of Anne Boleyn. The one experiment is about as hopeless as the other. Mary's cruel zeal and fanatical intolerance, which coupled eternally with her name the most odious epithet, by means of which a nation has resented and revenged its wrongs, are scarcely more distasteful to English thought or more repellant to English sympathies than Anne's sly cajolery of her royal master. Both characters are, indeed, the product of foreign influences. Mary's religion was born beneath Spanish skies in the dark heart of Isabella, and Anne's arts were learned of French and Italian intriguers at the Court of the first Francis. It is difficult to conceive how a dramatist so skilful as Mr. Taylor, and so quick to feel the public pulse, can have fallen into an error so grave as is involved in the choice of a heroine. Something might, perhaps, have been hoped from Anne's connexion with the movement out of which sprang the Reformation. Without, however, wholly ignoring this, Mr. Taylor has reduced it to the position of an episode, one of many in which the public is not greatly interested. As such even it failed in its effect, and a long passage about no home being without an English Bible did not win any strong manifestation of approval. Leaning but slightly, however, upon such supports, the dramatist has presented Anne as in love with her bluff wooer, has endeavoured to palliate her treachery and elevate her whimsies to the dignity of passion. The treatment wants the only justification that could be advanced in its behalf—success. Not for a moment does the heroine touch our sympathies or get near our hearts; and the only feeling aroused when Jane Seymour revenges the wrongs of Katharine is that poetic justice has been awarded. It is, of course, impossible not to detest the treachery, cruelty, and servility which lead Anne to the block, in order to leave her royal paramour free to contract fresh nuptials as brief and as dishonouring as those from which he is loosed. Pity is, however, tardy in declaring itself, and never approaches the point at which it grows tragic. Anne's character is, indeed, deficient, not only in everything that prepares the way for tragic terror, but in such minor, if still important, qualifications as dignity and almost womanliness. Her position beside her mistress, whom she betrays, will not readily in England win forgiveness, while her intrigue with her royal lover develops no single quality that can obtain for illicit passion either pardon or sympathy. It is essentially pitiful and unromantic, and such, in the dramatic action Mr. Taylor has shaped, it remains.

In his treatment of his subject, Mr. Taylor has not been much happier than in its choice. He has overcrowded his canvas with characters which serve no important, or, at least,

no adequate purpose. He has sought, apparently, to give a picture of the life of an epoch, rather than to evolve carefully a dramatic conception. As a consequence, the slight thread of fable is lost sight of in the complication of details; no strong sympathy is enlisted, and no feeling is provoked strong enough to conquer the sense of weariness begotten of long and unnecessary dialogue. Very pretty are the scenes of wooing in the pleasance at Hever Court; songs and dances are edifyingly correct in archaeological respects, and the pageant of history is carefully unfolded. Something more than this is required to make a play, and this something is wanting. It is useless to go *seriatim* through the scenes of Anne's life which Mr. Taylor has selected for stage presentation, since they fail to supply us with a distinct idea of her character.

We see her passionately enamoured of Percy, whom, however, she dismisses so soon as she finds he is timid enough to fear paternal indignation, and take counsel of prudence in his dealings with love. To avoid a hated match with the Butlers, she defies her father, Wolsey, Northumberland, and Henry himself; preparing, if needs be, to fly from the Court rather than yield her liberty. Under the smiles of her royal lover she warms, until her conscience, mistrustful ever, is quieted, and she throws herself into his arms before her predecessor's divorce has been pronounced. Once married, her knowledge of her own frailty does not render her lenient in her treatment of those butterfly proceedings in her Court in which she had once been an ardent participator. Jane Seymour's behaviour to the King, so closely resembling her own, rouses her to madness of jealousy, in which she seems ready to take her rival's life. In presence of defeat, dishonour, and imminent death, she grows pious and heroic, going in the end to the block with fortitude and composure. It is, of course, possible enough for a woman to go through these states of feeling. There is, however, no dominant or informing quality which enables us to single Anne from other heroines, or to speculate as to how she will behave under anticipated conditions. She is not even "constant in inconstancy." A certain frankness of manner and a girlish sincerity of bearing seemed rather a gift of the actress than the dramatist. Miss Neilson succeeded, indeed, in giving the character a virginal charm, which at one period went near rendering it sympathetic. In presence of Anne's rapture at recovering an early gift of Henry of which Wyatt had deprived her, the most suspicious of husbands would retain no spark of jealousy. Her pride and delight in her imperious master recall the child-like gratification of Amy Robsart with the splendour of Leicester. The defiance of Jane Seymour rose to dramatic intensity, and the prosaic scenes of separation from her maidens received impressiveness from the bearing of the actress. These scenes are, however, clogged with unnecessary business; her triumph over her rival leads to a defeat more humiliating than that she has inflicted, and her presentation of souvenirs to her friends at the moment of departure is trivial. It is natural that a queen should give her attendants at such supreme moment some gage of affection. It should be personal,

however; some jewels hastily unclasped, the scarf that enfolds her, something of which she can hurriedly divest herself—not books brought by an attendant, and recalling school-prizes bestowed on pupils at the moment of breaking-up for the holidays. Some of the subordinate characters received satisfactory interpretation. Miss Carlisle's *Jane Seymour* was thoroughly felicitous, and Miss Henri's *Lady Rochford* subtle and venomous. Both presentations were satisfactory, and the former showed full dramatic insight. Mr. Arthur Cecil's *Chapuis* had a breadth which nothing in the previous performances of the actor had shown. Mr. Howe, Mr. Kyrle, Mr. Conway, and Mr. Robertson acquitted themselves satisfactorily in other parts. 'Anne Boleyn' is well mounted. Like most efforts in the same direction seen during recent years, it is as a stage spectacle, and not as a drama, it will obtain whatever hold upon the public it is destined to acquire. It is written in blank verse, the quality of which is fairly good.

SHAKESPEARE AT DRURY LANE.

Woburn Place, Russell Square.

Br Miss Glyn's letter I am informed, for the first time, that she sent me, "through Mr. Chatterton, hints and suggestions upon the performance of Cleopatra," and that I not only "thanked" her for these "hints and suggestions," but that I "adopted" them; thus depriving me of the credit of an original reading of the *role*.

As Miss Glyn's "hints and suggestions" were never conveyed to me by Mr. Chatterton at any part of my engagement, I am quite at a loss to conceive how I could have "thanked" her, and "adopted them." Again, it is quite good taste for Miss Glyn in her elaborate advertisements to say she absolutely refused the part because she feared to "degrade her education," "dishonour her art," "preferring to starve," or sweep the crossing dressed as Cleopatra, with placards on her back," with the very modest appeal, "This *was* the Cleopatra, but she will not be Cleopatra *now*?" Miss Glyn seeks to excuse herself for employing this style of language, by saying she did not attack Mr. Halliday nor Miss Wallis; but when, in the next line, she says she attacks the "*principle* that puts aside its convictions for 'a mess of pottage,'" certainly Mr. Halliday and I must feel very guilty. For have we not for "a mess of pottage" been bribed into that which Miss Glyn would scorn to undertake, even at a thousand a minute?

I am much afraid that Cleopatra being apparently a favourite *role* with Miss Glyn, she probably felt very disappointed at not being selected to appear in it: hence arises so much spleen. No doubt we shall yet hear "the whole truth of the negotiations in 1873," although "it will seem cruel to several people concerned." Truth will go without crutches.

Mr. Chatterton engaged me to play Cleopatra as far back as the Christmas before the piece was produced in September, 1873. The opportunity of refusing the part, I believe, was not offered to Miss Glyn until three doctors' certificates proved to Mr. Chatterton I could not continue. However, at his earnest solicitations, I struggled and overcame my illness, thus deciding myself the pending negotiation which Miss Glyn has been so excited over.

ELLEN WALLIS.

Dramatic Gossip.

MARK LEMON's farce, 'Domestic Economy,' has been revived for the evening performances at the Gaiety. It shows Mr. Toole in a part thoroughly suited to him, and forms a very amusing feature of the entertainment.

A VERSION of the 'Merchant of Venice,' reduced into two acts, is being given at Covent Garden

Mr. C. Rice plays Shylock with more cheeriness and even unction than are ordinarily associated with the part. In his hands the comic side of Shylock is so distinctly seen there is no question of attempting to rank the play as a tragedy. Some of the speeches concerning the loss of his daughter and his ducats move the audience to mirth.

No less than three morning performances have been announced for the present week at the Gaiety. On Wednesday 'Othello' was given, with Mr. Creswick as the Moor, Mr. Bandmann as Iago, Mrs. Bandmann as Desdemona, and Miss Geneviève Ward as Emilia. On Thursday 'Dearest than Life' was played, by the ordinary company. This afternoon, the 'Merchant of Venice' will be repeated, with Mr. Phelps as Shylock.

The presentation of 'Macbeth,' at Drury Lane, on Friday in last week, for the benefit of the American Centennial Fund, was chiefly noteworthy for Mr. Vezin's thoughtful and intelligent performance of Macbeth. Miss Geneviève Ward played Lady Macbeth.

WHILE not less didactic in purpose, the recent works of M. Augier have been more dramatic in treatment than his earlier efforts. His latest comedy, 'Madame Calverlet,' by the aid of which the fortunes of the Vaudeville appear once more to have reached high-water mark, is a plea for divorce. Its story is simple and effective, and its final explanation, coming as a surprise when no solution of the difficulty presents itself to the spectator, is novel and ingenious. Madame Calverlet, who has been severed from her husband by what is called *une séparation de corps et de biens*, lives in quietude and peace near Geneva, with two children, the issue of her marriage, and with M. Calverlet, with whom she has entered into new arrangements. All goes well until there is a question of marrying her daughter, when an explanation of the true state of affairs becomes inevitable. This is made, and the woman, before accepted by the community among which she resides, finds herself shunned. Trouble reaches her also from another quarter. Her husband, who has heard of her inheriting a fortune, comes to demand a share, and succeeds in enlisting on his side the sympathies of his son. The issue from this position is discovered by M. Calverlet, who, at the price of half her fortune, succeeds in inducing her husband to become naturalized in Switzerland. A divorce, which the laws of that country sanction, is then obtained, and the heroine, by a union to M. Calverlet, removes all obstacles from the path of her children, and obtains a right to the name she bears. There are some strong scenes in the play, notably one between M. Calverlet and the youth whose desertion of his mother has formed the bitterest portion of her penance. M. Lafontaine was excellent as M. Calverlet. Mlle. Rousseil played the heroine. Other parts were assumed by Mlle. Barthet and MM. Parade and Berton.

SIGNOR ROSSI's last appearance in Paris took place in a tragedy, by Signor Pietra Cossa, entitled 'Nerone.' This piece seems, from the descriptions afforded of it by the French press, to bear some resemblance to Mr. Story's play of 'Nero,' lately reviewed in our columns. Signor Rossi's representation of the part has won no less favour than his previous performances.

Two pieces instead of one have come out victorious from the competition opened by M. Michælis for the commemoration of the centenary of American independence, the one by M. Dartois, and the other, entitled 'Le Nouveau Monde,' by M. Auguste Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, a poet and dramatic author, known in connexion with several works already celebrated in the world of letters, and who intends going to America to superintend the production of his piece simultaneously in all the great theatres in the United States.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. L. L.—J. K.—W. S.—J. J.—J. W. G.—H. S.—E. E. B.—received.
No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.—G. W. W.

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"On this he had to keep alive a sick wife and seven daughters, while his Bishop, a Broad Churchman, who never mentioned the devil in his sermons, drew his 7,000l. a year. . . . As things were coming to such a pass, we carried an Act for the repression of Symbolism in the Church of England. Every parishioner had the right to say what was Symbolism, and the Bishops were bound, at the peril of their popularity, to listen to all complaints, and please everybody. But we found that, Tories as we were, we had sealed the doom of the Establishment."

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"Just then, too, my First Lord, who was a dashing fellow, and called niggers nothing, issued an order which withdrew the protection of the British flag from the poor fugitive slave. I cannot think how he came to act so foolishly. It was asserted that the Navy was going to the dogs. The Opposition called my First Lord Antony, and me Cleopatra."

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"Driven to desperation, my Chancellor of the Exchequer, who had a passion for Oriental speculation, advised me to buy a canal from an Egyptian who wanted the money to replenish his harems and pay his ballet-girls. My First Lord, who, dear fellow! was the most unfortunate member of my Cabinet, believed it would regain our popularity, while others maintained that it would cause a war. I made my First Lord the Duke of Frouse. My Chancellor of the Exchequer was a failure. He knew more of fancy than figures, and found that epigrams would not do his business. He was worried by Mr. Sadwood, who, it is said, was born counting. Just then, too, Miss Fortner, M.P., the Great Moraliser, eloped with my Home Secretary. She did the Society for the Propagation of Woman's Rights in All Parts no end of harm. Three members of my Cabinet proposed marriage on condition that I made Dukes of them, but my heart was elsewhere."

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The Directors have pleasure in submitting to the Proprietors the Balance-Sheet of the Bank for the Half-year ended on 31st of December last. With reference to the exceptional loss arising out of the failure of Messrs. A. Collyer & Co., mentioned in the Report to the Proprietors in August last, the Directors have, after careful consideration, transferred 75,000l. from the balance then carried forward, to the special account previously opened, which will, in their judgment, fully cover the whole of the deficiency.

This transfer of 75,000l. leaves the balance brought from last account 13,584,12s. 3d., including 6,000l. 12s. reserved to meet interest then accrued on New Shares.

The Net Profit for the Half-year, after paying interest to customers and all charges, allowing for rebate, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, amount to 145,374l. 6s. 3d., which, added to the above balance of 13,584,12s. 3d., produces a total of 136,720l. 12s. 6d. out of this sum the Directors have added 25,000l. to the Reserve Fund, raising that Fund to 400,000l.

They recommend the payment of a Dividend of 5l. per cent. for the Half-year, and that the balance of 14,720l. 12s. 6d. remaining (after providing 15,000l. for interest on new shares) be carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account.

The present Dividend, added to that paid to 30th June, will make 16l. per cent. for the year 1875.

The Directors retiring by rotation are James Morley, Abraham Hodgson Phillips, and James Duncan Thomson, Esquires, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Dividend, 11.12s. per share, free of Income Tax, will be payable at the Head Office, or at any of the Branches, on or after Monday, 14th instant.

Balance-Sheet of the London and County Banking Company,
31st December, 1875.

Dr.			
To Capital paid-up	£1,200,000 0 0		
Installments received in respect of New Shares	299,045 0 0	1,499,045 0 0	
Reserve Fund	895,000 0 0		
Installments received in respect of New Shares	149,592 10 0		
Amount now added	25,000 0 0		
		669,592 10 0	
Amount due by the Bank for Customers' Balances, &c. ..	21,200,794 6 4		
Liabilities on Acceptances, covered by Securities	2,162,090 7 0	23,362,879 13 4	
Profit and Loss Balance brought from last Account, less 475,000 referred to in the Report ..	7,720 17 3		
Reserve to meet interest accrued on New Shares	6,091 15 0		
Gross Profit for the Half-year, after making provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts, viz. ..	386,830 1 5		
Less Amount added to Reserve Fund	25,000 0 0		
		261,830 13 8	
		£23,144,531 17 0	

By Cash on hand at Head Office and Branches, and with Bank of England	£2,735,358 10 2		
Cash placed at Call and at Notice covered by Securities	2,375,570 15 2	5,110,929 5 4	
Investments, viz.:			
Government and Guaranteed Stocks	3,338,754 18 9		
Other Stocks and Securities	80,808 11 11	3,419,563 0 8	
Discounted Bills, and advances to Customers in Town and Country	14,868,733 3 4		
Liabilities of Customers for Drafts accepted by the Bank (as per Contra)	2,162,090 7 0	16,987,880 10 4	
Freehold Premises in Lombard Street and Nicholas Lane, Freehold and Leasehold Property at the Rivers, with Fixtures and Fittings	441,137 14 3		
Interest paid to Customers	77,770 19 3		
Salaries and all other expenses at Head Office and Branches, including Income-Tax on Profits and Salaries	130,948 19 0		
		£26,144,533 17 0	

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.			
To Interest paid to Customers, as above	£27,770 19 3		
Expenses	129,948 19 0		
Rebate on Bills not due, carried to New Account	44,929 16 9		
Amount added to Reserve Fund	85,000 0 0		
Interest on New Shares	15,000 0 0		
Dividend of 5l. per cent. for Half-year	369,930 0 0		
Balance carried forward	14,720 17 3		
		£409,592 13 8	

By			
Balance brought forward from last Account, less 75,000l. referred to in the Report	£7,720 17 3		
Reserve to meet interest accrued on New Shares	6,091 15 0		
Gross Profit for the Half-year, after making Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	386,830 1 5		
		£409,592 13 8	

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing Balance-Sheet, and have found the same to be correct.

(Signed) WILLIAM NORMAN,
RICHARD H. SWAINNE, } Auditors.

By Order, GEO. GUGH, Secretary.
London and County Bank, 27th January, 1876.

LONDON and COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a DIVIDEND of 5l. per cent. on the Capital, at the rate of 5l. per cent. for the Half-year ended 31st December, 1875, will be PAYABLE to the Proprietors, either at the Head Office, 21, Lombard-street, or at any of the Company's Branches, on or after Monday, the 14th instant.

By Order of the Board,
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